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Beacon Lights of the Race

By

G. P. HAMILTON

Principal of Kortrecht High School
Memphis, Tennessee

1911

F. H. CLARKE & BROTHER
MEMPHIS

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Preface.

THE OBJECT OF THIS BOOK.



HIS book is written, primarily, for the inspiration of the youth of the Negro race, for this particular race, of all other races under the sun, is most in need of inspiration. In the great scheme for the encouragement and inspiration of any race there is no more effective agency than the successful achievements and worthy lives of the members of that race.

FALSE TRADITIONS.

The youth of the race have been the victims of false and vicious traditions that have destroyed their stamina, paralyzed their energies, and wrought greater destruction with the future of the race than famine, pestilence or war. From the very cradle the youth of the race have had instilled in their minds that they were created by an all-wise Providence merely to be "hewers of wood and drawers of water" for the other races of mankind, and that there is no possible escape from that inexorable decree. The fiat of Providence is that every man shall earn his bread in the sweat of his own brow, and this decree applies to all men alike, irrespective of color or previous condition. The writer does not believe in the circumscriptions of Providence, as applied to any race, but he does believe that Omnipotence holds every man personally responsible for the manner in which he uses his opportunities, and that He confers upon every man the privilege of making his own monument of good or evil. This book is a clarion call to the discouraged and the weak, exhorting them to buckle on the armor of resolution, work out their destiny in the fear of the Lord, and take possession of the inexhaustible store of riches which benign Providence has bequeathed as an inheritance to every rational and responsible man.

HISTORY SHOULD BE IMPARTIAL.

No people can be sure of impartial history if the narrators of their history are members of a different race, with views and traditions that are diametrically opposite and often inimical to the interests and welfare of those whose history they are to write. Impartial history can be written only by unprejudiced minds, for even the scales of justice tremble in the presence of bias and unnecessary hatred. The tendency from many outside sources has ever been to belittle the history of the Negro race and to deny that the race has ever done aught that is worthy of narrating. It

is passing strange that the Lord should have created the Negro race to be a mere cipher in human existence from the very creation of the world. The Negro race has contributed much to the civilization of the world, but the shrewd narrators of history have systematically robbed the Negro race of its birthright and denied that it has ever made a single historical track on the sands of time. However, it is known to be a fact that many of the leading characters of both sacred and profane history were identified with the Negro race, and that as such they contributed their share to the present enlightenment of the world. The only remedy for the race is to produce its own narrators and historians to perpetuate the deeds that reflect honor and glory on it.

THE WORLD SHOULD KEEP BOOKS WITH THE NEGRO RACE.

As a rule, the bright side of the Negro race is not given its due share of publicity to the world. Its mistakes, its weaknesses, its misfortunes, its vices and crimes are minutely elaborated upon and scattered broadcast over the known world, while its worthy and meritorious achievements are only too often passed over in silence. It is but simple justice to any people to set their virtues over against their vices, their strength over against their weakness, in order that the world may be shown both sides of their character. In other words, the world should keep books with the Negro race just as it does with other races. The Negro race should be debited with its faults, follies, vices and crimes, but it should likewise be credited with its virtues and worthy achievements. No reputable system of bookkeeping has ever been tried with the Negro race, for the debit side of its account is out of all proportion to the facts in the case. All former exhibits from sources external to the race have made the Negro race a heavy debtor to the world—a sort of charge on the philanthropy of the world; but the Negro race is one of the world's greatest creditors, for its sweat and blood have been largely the foundation of the wealth of the world since the earliest ages of the world.

THE SCOPE OF THIS BOOK.

The scope of this first edition of the book is limited to the South, partly because of its accessibility and partly because of the short time at the disposal of the writer for collecting and writing this material. No serious attempt has been made to secure even the thousandth part of the high class, successful and worthy men with whom the race teems, for the passing years would become hoary with age before such a task would be possible. Therefore, the writer has endeavored to select only a few types of success from

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the plentitude of material that is available for showing to the world that the lowly and despised Negro race is not lagging superfluous and asleep on the stage of human action, but that thousands of them have their eyes wide open and their faces turned to the sun of progress, and are daily keeping step to the music of the world's advancement.

NO APOLOGY TO MAKE.

The writer has no apology to offer the reading public for writing this book. He has no charm of erudition to exhibit, nor any remarkable discovery to relate to the world. His bosom is not burdened and heaving with any great message to deliver to the world. His main object is to stimulate and inspire the youth of the race by setting before them concrete examples of some of the most successful men of the race and the nation. There is strength for the weak and hope for the discouraged in this book, for on its pages are recorded the names of men that have made their mark in life and now wear the laurel wreath of success already won. If the marvelous examples of achievement herein narrated shall inspire a single youth of the race to be of good cheer and take advantage of the golden opportunities which this Southland presents to every ambitious and worthy boy, the writer will feel that his humble efforts in behalf of the race will not have been in vain.

G. P. HAMILTON.

Memphis, Tenn., June, 1911.



Beacon Lights of the Race.

Bishop E. Cottrell, Holly Springs, Miss.

BISHOP OF THE COLORED METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.



THE writer readily admits the magnitude of the task of trying to commit to paper the life story of a bishop at the head of a great and growing church. He realizes to the fullest extent his inability to do complete justice to the eminent divine and spiritual father whose name graces the head of this sketch, but as the writer has a personal acquaintance with the worthy episcopal dignitary, and knows something of his indefatigable efforts for the uplift of the race, and something of the Bishop's own struggles to prepare himself for the great and useful career he is now living, he is emboldened to launch out on the pleasant sea of this narrative with the feeling that the generous disposition and magnanimous spirit of the worthy Bishop will cause him to deal charitably with the writer for any palpable defects that may be found in this sketch, and ascribe the same as errors of the head and not of the heart.

HIS BIRTHPLACE AND PARENTS.

Bishop Elias Cottrell was born a slave in Marshall County, Mississippi, January 31, 1857. He was a precocious youth, with a marvelous memory, and, notwithstanding his tender years in those days long past and gone, he still has a vivid recollection of many of the incidents of slavery. Distinctly does he recollect having been carried to the auction block, when he was four years old, in company with his parents and their seven children, to be auctioned off to the highest bidder. Nor were the members of his family all sold to one man; on the contrary, they were sold to five different taskmasters. Those were the days when the institution of slavery was all-powerful in the land, and when men and women claimed ownership of other men and women who, like themselves, were clothed in the image of their Maker. Thus, to the everlasting regret and tearful lamentations of parents, brothers, sisters and other loved ones, most of the members of the subject's family were ruthlessly separated, never to be reunited until the general judgment at the last day.

The dear mother of the worthy bishop was of prolific stock, and gave to the world, as her humble portion, seventeen children. This



BISHOP E. COTTRELL.

unusual fecundity is in marked contrast to the custom of this modern day civilization, when race suicide seems to be most fashionable. In spite of the fact that the children of his dear mother were ruthlessly snatched from her bosom and sold into involuntary servitude, yet by the strange irony of fate, within four blocks of that historic spot whereon was located the auction block that condemned

her flesh and blood to the horrors of slavery, one of these same children, the present Bishop Cottrell, has erected a great college for the training of the youth of his race.

HIS EDUCATION.

Every cloud has its silver lining, and thus it was that a few rays of sunshine lighted up the educational sky of the Bishop's youth. His father had come to the State of Mississippi from the State of North Carolina, where the father had enjoyed some educational advantages, resulting from contact with the children of his master. His father not only knew how to read and write, but it is more than probable that he could solve problems in common arithmetic as far as fractions. Whatever of doubt there may now be as to the extent of his father's education, it is certain that he was well qualified to instruct his children in the elementary branches of learning in those early days. His father was considered a sort of intellectual wonder in those early times, and he had the distinction of being the first colored man to teach a night school for the benefit of colored children in the northern part of the State of Mississippi.

When the Bishop was a lad, not only did he receive instruction from his father, but for two years he attended a night school, which was taught by a shrewd Pennsylvania German. Of course, the facilities for enabling one to acquire an education in those days were crude and primitive, both as to books and methods of instruction; but in all ages of the world and under all conditions, the minds of men have received the light of knowledge and understanding, and have been torch bearers to diffuse the rays of intelligence and truth throughout the whole world.

It may interest the young people of today to know under what trying disadvantages the school children of the Bishop's youthful days labored when they attended night school, for the development of the public school system was the evolution of later years. At night not only were the night school pupils footsore and exhausted from hard and unremitting labor during the day, but their lighting facilities were of the rudest kind. The pupils did not have for light even the tallow candle, the tallow dip, or the historic pine knot, but they drawled out their letters and scribbled their writing forms by the weird and flickering light of rails and brush which were brought to the night school by the pupils themselves. The standard text-books of those days were the old Blue Back Speller, Maury's Geographies, and other antediluvian works, some of which the Bishop owns and treasures even to this day.

As the sun of freedom began to rise higher and higher above the horizon of slavery, the educational sky of the race in the State of

Mississippi began to brighten. In the early part of the decade of the seventies a corps of first-class school teachers from Maryville College, Maryville, East Tennessee, came into the State of Mississippi to take charge of the schools and their advent marked a new era in the educational experience of the children of that hitherto benighted section. The worthy subject of this narrative, ever ambitious to improve his mind, took full advantage of that golden opportunity to make himself proficient in the common branches. His progress under their instruction was so satisfactory and great that he was inspired to go off to college. So in the year of 1879 he went off to Nashville, Tennessee, and matriculated as a student in Central Tennessee College, now Walden University, where he remained for two years and completed his English course in theology. The Bishop has always been an inveterate student, and the burning of midnight oil has played a not unimportant part in the success of his life. He has not the prestige of a university diploma, but he has studied in a private capacity under some of the best teachers in the land, and in this manner he has acquired a breadth and profundity of scholarship that would put to shame many a proud and pretentious college graduate. He has a good working knowledge of the Latin, Greek and German languages. His knowledge of Hebrew was gained under the tutorship of that gifted scholar and eminent citizen, Rabbi M. Samfield, of Memphis, Tenn. The able scholarship of the worthy Bishop is not only a source of pride and gratification to his friends, but to the whole membership of his branch of the Christian church. He thought that his exalted calling should be fortified with the best education that his circumstances should permit him to get for the purpose of serving the cause of the Master with the greatest degree of efficiency.

HIS CAREER AS A MINISTER OF THE GOSPEL.

Bishop Cottrell began his long and eventful career as a minister of the gospel in the year of 1876, and he has since that time been a constant and zealous worker in the cause of the Master. In his branch of the Christian church he has served in every capacity from that of class leader to Bishop, and in every capacity he was faithful to every trust. He has ever been an inveterate worker, and notwithstanding the fact that he has attained to the acme of official honor in his church, he is none the less a worker today. Before his elevation to the bishopric he was generally recognized as one of the strongest ministers in his church, and as such he had filled some of the leading pastorates of his connection. In addition to having been one of the leading ministers of the church, he was the recipient of many honors from the church. He was elected a delegate to the

First, Second and Third Ecumenical Conferences, and he has been elected to every General Conference of his church since he was eligible for membership in the year of 1878. For four years he filled with unusual success the office of Commissioner of Education and in that capacity he collected moneys for all the schools under the jurisdiction of his church. He has ever been closely identified with the educational interests of his denomination, and as a financier for the interests of the church he has not had a superior.

The crowning point in the career of the subject of this sketch as a gospel minister was when he was elevated to the bishopric in the year of 1894. That no mistake was made in his elevation to the exalted position which he has so long and so creditably filled is demonstrated by the fact that he is without question one of the most progressive and up-to-date members of the College of Bishops. He brought to his high office the prestige of long and faithful service in the pastorate, splendid educational qualification, and undoubted piety. He has made the office of Bishop something more than a repository for saintly dignity. He has made it a veritable workshop for an active and energetic mind. He has brought his exalted office to the level of the people, who are because of that fact more benefited and uplifted. As a Bishop he is doing a wonderful work for his church. He is the personification of aggressiveness and progressiveness, and these characteristics have been far-reaching in their influence for good among his people. He lives in the glorious present, and he is just the leader that has been needed to stimulate the growth of his church and to raise it on a parity with the other branches of that same great denomination.

THE BISHOP AS A PUBLIC SPEAKER.

The Bishop is a forcible, eloquent speaker, and always brings something to his audience that is worth listening to. In his sermons there is a happy mixture of scholarship and spiritual fervor. He has never forgotten the fact that the primary object of all preaching is the conversion of souls to Christ, and that is the great ambition of his life. He is a profound theologian, but he does not put this power in as much evidence as he does that spiritual power which for years has made him one of the most effective preachers in his church. He is a great preacher, and to be a gifted preacher of the gospel is to rank not subordinate even to a bishop.

Wherever the Bishop goes he preaches and lectures on the necessity of education, morality and religion for the race. His discourses are thoughtful, his advice timely, and his counsel wise. He has all the equipment of the forceful public speaker. He is entertain-

ing, witty, eloquent and profound at will. He is not an extremist along any line that would provoke fierce antagonism either in the ranks of the race or outside of the ranks of the race. He is temperamentally sound on all questions affecting the welfare of his people, and is thus fitted by nature for leadership. His lectures throughout the country are always noted for his vigorous treatment of the social evils of the times. He is constantly exhorting his people to make themselves decent, industrious, respectable, law-abiding citizens, so that they may be worthy of the respect of all classes of people, white and black alike. He exhorts them to buy lands, build homes and live lives of industry and sobriety. He wants the race to wake up from its Rip Van Winkle sleep and take hold of the inheritance that the Great First Cause has left for them, the opportunity to work and make a living in the sweat of their own brows, to be honest men and women and respect themselves and the laws of common sense and common decency. As a Bishop he has seized every opportunity to promote the welfare of both races. He is not an agitator, but a pacificator in the truest sense. He believes in absolute peace and friendship between the two races in this Southland, and that each race has in the other race its best and truest friend.

THE BISHOP AS A BUSINESS MAN.

Too much credit cannot be given to Bishop Cottrell for the masterly manner in which he has managed his own financial affairs. It is true that he is promised a substantial reward in the next world for his labors while in this world, but the practical Bishop is not averse to enjoying some of the fruits of his labors while sojourning in this world. All of his life he has worked and looked well for the rainy day. His idle moments have been few, and so well has he looked after his own personal interests that he is unquestionably one of the wealthiest bishops in America. His is not a wealth piled up by avarice and greed, for these two qualities are foreign to the Bishop's nature; but his is a substantial wealth that has been accumulated by many years of constant industry, thrift and judicious investments. He is as shrewd a business man as he is a great preacher, and he cut his full set of commercial wisdom teeth many years ago.

He is an eminently practical man, and never idles his time away in wild, chimerical ventures, and if he had aspired to success in the fields of speculation and finance, he would have won a name and fame in the marts of commerce. Some ministers of the gospel are notorious for their inability to look after their own financial interests, but in this particular the Bishop is in a class by himself.

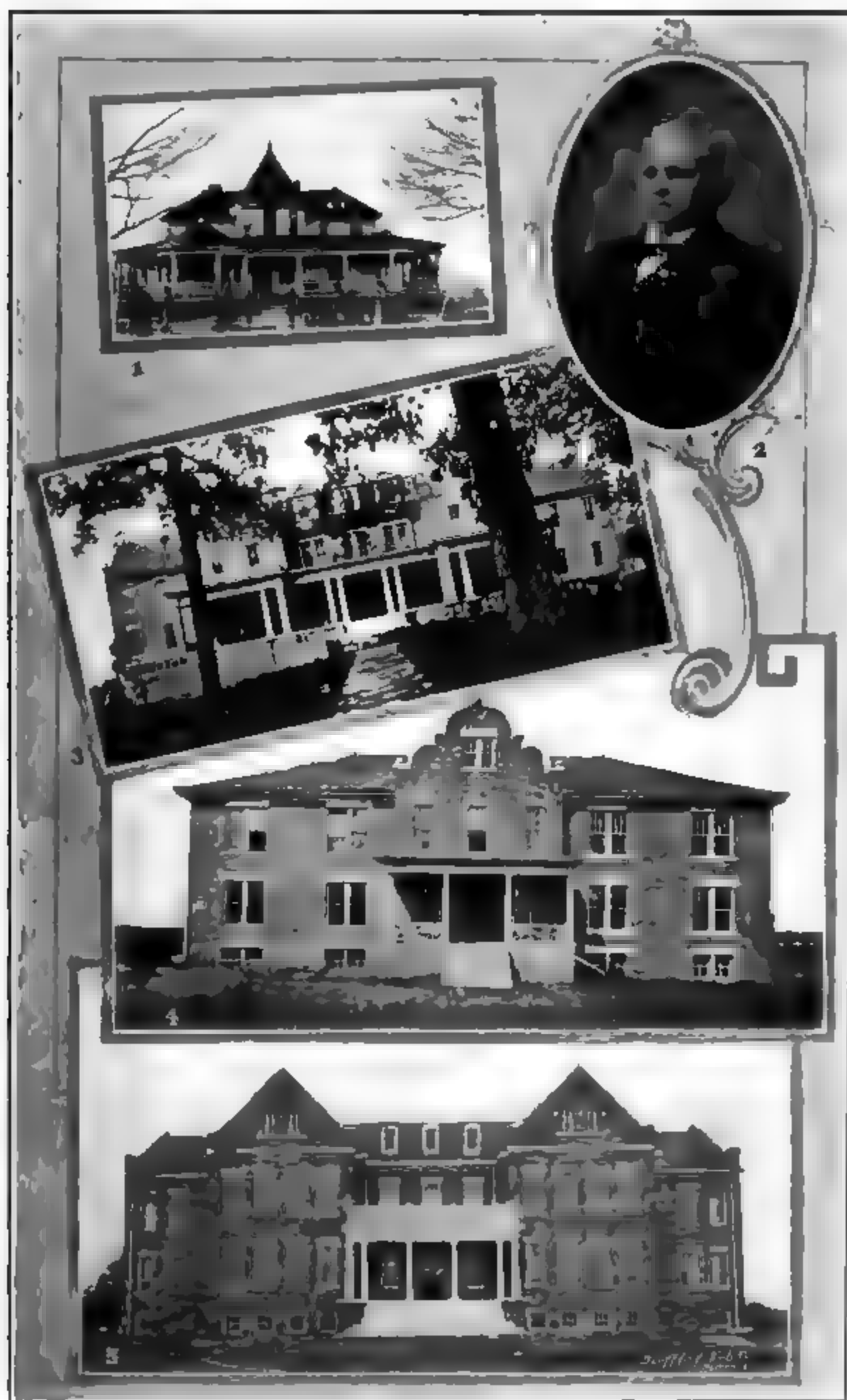
HIS PALATIAL HOME.

In the humble opinion of the writer, there are but few individuals of any race that get out of life as much of the happiness of real good living as the worthy Bishop does. In his home, surrounded by broad acres of smiling plenty for the mind and appetite, there is nothing lacking to satisfy the wishes and ambitions of even a prince of the realm. The home of Bishop Cottrell is palatial both in its size and its appointments. It is the center of attraction for every visitor to the town of Holly Springs, and in the pleasant days of the year it is a veritable observation point for the aristocracy, as well as the democracy of the visiting contingent to the city of Holly Springs. It is such a home as befits the head of a great church, and the whole church should rejoice because of the splendid example of material wealth that is shown as the result of his indefatigable labors. The total cost of the Bishop's palatial home is about ten thousand (\$10,000) dollars. It is baronial in its size, and its appointments are as complete as money can provide. Its verandas are the most capacious in the State, and will hold a multitude of people.

HIS ESTIMABLE WIFE.

On the 6th of June, in the year of 1880, the real successful career of Bishop Cottrell began with his marriage to Miss Catherine Davis, of Columbia, Tennessee. She is a woman of culture and refinement, and in her school days she attended the Bellevue Public School of Nashville, Tenn., and Fisk University of the same city. She is truly the queen of the palatial home over which she presides, and her home is but a faint testimonial of the great love and devotion which her husband has for her. She has been the faithful and loving companion of her husband through all the grades of his honor in the church, from the humblest to the most exalted. The Bishop has received her encouragement, her inspiration and her prayers for his success, and he has succeeded because of her fidelity and loyalty. She is a woman in whose character affability, taste, tact and sound judgment are harmoniously compounded, and she is such a woman as can always make the life of a minister of the gospel a complete success.

Their accomplished daughter, Mrs. C. Gillis, Jr., gained her literary training mainly at Rust University, Holly Springs, Miss., and Walden University, Nashville, Tenn. She is a high class vocalist and an accomplished pianist. She is at the head of the music department of Mississippi Industrial College, Holly Springs, Miss., and has served in her present capacity since the year of 1906.



GROUP OF BUILDINGS—M. I. COLLEGE

1—RESIDENCE OF BISHOP COTTRILL. 2—BISHOP COTTRILL. 3—CATHEDRAL HALL.
4—C. D. HAMMOND HALL. 5—B. L. WASHINGTON HALL.

THE M. I. COLLEGE HIS GREAT MONUMENT.

One of the most enduring monuments to the untiring efforts of Bishop Cottrell is the magnificent college on whose erection and maintenance he has spent many of the best years of his life. The erection and growth of this institution of learning have hardly a parallel in this country. The college began its beneficent existence in the month of January, 1906. While its very beginning was auspicious, yet its subsequent growth has surpassed the most sanguine expectations of its founder and friends. From the opening of the doors of this institution it began to take a leading rank among the higher institutions of learning in the land. Students from seven States of the Federal Union have been in attendance, and the total number of students for the scholastic year ending in the summer of 1910 was three hundred and seventy-six (376). This college, which began its existence only in the year of 1906, has the most magnificent collection of college buildings in the South, when due consideration is given to its age. It has three commodious and substantial buildings, viz.: Washington Hall, built at a cost of \$40,000; Catherine Hall, at a cost of \$28,000; and J. D. Hammond Hall, at a cost of \$17,000. There are additional houses on the campus, which cost more than \$3,000. The institution has two hundred and ten (210) acres of land, valued at \$30,000.

The college is Christian, rather than sectarian, though it is under the auspices and government of the Colored Methodist Episcopal Church. The environment of the school is thoroughly moral and Christian, and every safeguard that will promote their physical, moral, intellectual and Christian welfare is put around the lives of the students.

The college maintains all of the departments which are found in the representative institutions of the South. In addition to the regular literary courses leading to the degrees of Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science, the college maintains courses in Theology, Music, Shorthand and Typewriting, Plain Sewing and Dressmaking, Millinery, Gardening and Farming, and general industrial work. It is a college that is prepared to educate a student for a life of usefulness and service, and that is the kind of education that is most needed by the down-trodden, backward race of today. It has a faculty of highly capable men and women, from some of the best colleges and universities, and in this respect the patrons and friends of the college are to be congratulated.

THE BISHOP AS A FARMER.

The Bishop has a hobby. All great men have hobbies, but some of them are not so practical and useful as the worthy Bishop's

hobby. Next to his calling in the ministry of the gospel, the subject of farming seems to interest the Bishop most. He is one of the most enthusiastic farmers in his State, and he can discourse as entertainingly on the subject of crops, soils and cultivation as he can in his sermons and public lectures. He grows so enthusiastic that he seldom sits when matters along farming lines are being discussed. He considers the independent life of a farmer as an ideal existence for any people, and he has encouraged and exhorted his people to live close to the soil, shun the life and temptation of the big cities, and grow powerful and independent on the fertile lands of this Southland. Under his personal supervision he maintains a model farm at his home, and the relaxation that the life of a husbandman affords him gives to him the desired opportunity to engage in a work in which he is so deeply interested.

HIS HONORARY DEGREES.

The Bishop is one of the most experienced ministers and one of the ripest scholars of his connection. He is trained in the languages that enable one to make original investigation of the Holy Bible. His theological training was long continued and thorough, and he is one of the leading theologians of his church. As an humble tribute to the Bishop's profound scholarship, great service to his people and his deep piety, the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity was conferred upon him by Rust University, Holly Springs, Mississippi, in the year of 1900. While this exalted degree did not add one iota to his splendid ability, it did show the degree of appreciation in which his ability was recognized by one of the leading institutions of learning in the South.

HIS OFFICIAL HONORS.

He was elevated to the bishopric at the Seventh General Conference, which was held in the city of Memphis, Tennessee, May 13, 1894. He is Presiding Bishop of the Fourth Episcopal District of the Colored Methodist Church in America. He is Treasurer of Mississippi Industrial College. He is Treasurer of the Building Fund of Haygood Seminary. He is President of the Board of Trustees of Homer College, Homer, Louisiana, and fills a similar capacity with Haygood Seminary, Washington, Ark.

HIS INVESTMENTS AND WEALTH.

Expression has already been given to the statement that the worthy Bishop is an able business man and financier. Surrounding his palatial home there are twenty acres of fertile land that the

Bishop would not sell for five hundred (\$500) dollars per acre. Thus the home residence of the Bishop is conservatively estimated to be worth twenty thousand (\$20,000) dollars. In addition to this realty he is the owner of two other pieces of improved property in Holly Springs, Miss., which are worth three thousand (\$3,000) dollars. Very close to the town of Holly Springs he owns fifty (50) acres of farm land valued at fifteen hundred dollars. In the town of Marianna, Ark., he owns property to the value of seven hundred and fifty (\$750) dollars. He is a stockholder in the Holly Springs Oil Mill Company; he is a stockholder in the Holly Springs Ice Factory. He is also a stockholder in the North Mississippi Fair Association. The total wealth of Bishop Cottrell may be estimated at thirty thousand (\$30,000) dollars.

A WISE AND PROGRESSIVE RACE LEADER.

The Bishop is a member of the Masonic fraternity, and he holds in the highest esteem the principles of the order, but he is first, last and all the time a preacher of the gospel and a presiding bishop of a great church, the C. M. E. Church of America. He is a liberal, up-to-date, high class Bishop, with no mossback tendencies. He is as liberal in his views and opinions as he is in his contributions to worthy causes. He believes in the power of religion and education, and that these two agencies can solve correctly all human problems. For many years he has worked like a Trojan for the educational, moral, spiritual and material uplift of his people, and he has accomplished great things for his people and for the age in which he lives. He is thoroughly democratic in his tastes and habits, and his elevation to the exalted office which he holds has not changed the amiability of his disposition nor the loveliness of his character. In many respects he is many years ahead of his people and the age in which he lives. He believes in the possibilities of the race, and he has done a thousand things to promote the welfare and uplift of his people. He is prompt in all business matters, and is the personification of punctuality in every essential thing. He is a great preacher, a safe and conservative leader of his people, an admirable presiding Bishop, and one of the mighty men of the race in many worthy respects.



Arthur McKimmon Brown, A.B., M.D., Birmingham, Ala.

IT IS the favorite pastime of many people of both races to decry the ability of the Negro to master the learned professions, and especially that most ancient and most difficult one which has for its object the alleviation of the suffering and the curing of the ills of the human family. It is a sweeping criticism that many of the physicians of the race have neither the capacity nor the opportunity

to qualify themselves for the highest success in their profession. Of course, all such declarations have long since been exploded, and have no status whatsoever among intelligent people, for there are in nearly every community of the South physicians of the race whose ability enables them to take the front rank in their profession and whose great success is the common pride and glory, not only of their race, but of the entire medical world. Indeed, there is no color line in the domain of the intellect, and there are the same possibilities for success for the high class colored physician that there are for the high class physician of the dominant race. Such is the good fortune of Dr. Arthur McKimmon Brown, of Birmingham, Ala., who is both by education and experience one of the most eminent physicians of the South, irrespective of race.

HIS BIRTHPLACE AND EARLY EDUCATION.

The subject of this sketch is a native of North Carolina, and was born in its capital city, Raleigh, November 9, 1867. As to educational advantages and environment, he was a very fortunate youth, for both of his parents were intelligent and his grandmother was one of the first colored teachers in the schools of the city of Raleigh. His parents were in fair circumstances for those early times, and they took great interest in the education of their children. His father, who is still living, was the leading tonsorial artist of his city, and was recognized by all classes as one of the city's most representative and most progressive colored citizens.

The subject of this sketch was a pupil in the public schools of Raleigh until he was twelve years old, when his parents sent him to Shaw University, Raleigh, N. C., where he studied for two years. At the expiration of that time he was returned to the public schools and placed under the instruction and inspiration of Miss Louise S. Dorr, an eminent and popular teacher of those days. While attending this school his exceptional ability as a student enabled him to win a competitive scholarship at Lincoln University. This scholarship was good for four years and was a monument to the generosity and philanthropy of a man whose identity has been a sealed book to him even until this day.

A GRADUATE OF LINCOLN UNIVERSITY.

In the month of September, 1884, the subject matriculated as a student in the Freshman class of Lincoln University. At Lincoln University the future gifted physician distinguished himself, not only for excellence in scholarship, but for unusual ability as a vocalist. When he was a little boy in the public schools of his native

city he had a remarkably fine singing voice, and he gained quite a local fame as an impersonator of female parts in singing, and he still has in his possession two gold coins that were thrown on the stage to him as a compliment to his splendid singing. As he grew older his ability as a vocalist became more and more pronounced, so that when he became a student of Lincoln University his vocal powers gained for him ready admittance to membership on the College Silver Leaf Glee Club, with which he traveled extensively, and in which he was a star entertainer, both as vocalist and monologist.

His student life at Lincoln University was one of serious and consecrated preparation for the duties and responsibilities of life, and it was in every respect a credit both to him and the institution. He was not only a social favorite, but he stood high in the intellectual firmament of his class. Having applied himself diligently for four years, he won the honor for which he had toiled and striven, and graduated from the university with the degree of Bachelor of Arts in the year of 1888.

HIS BOYHOOD DREAM WAS TO BE A DOCTOR.

When the doctor was a mere youth, his medical instincts were so pronounced that he was hailed as "doctor" by all the youth around, and in his juvenile way he "practiced" on all the youth in his neighborhood. Later on in life, when he was a student in the Junior Class in college, he became unusually interested in the study of physiology, and the result of his passionate interest in physiological research was his determination to take up the study of medicine in preparation for his life work.

OFF TO THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN TO STUDY.

Having resolved to take up the study of medicine, after his graduation from Lincoln University, the next step in the scheme of his preparation was to make a choice of the medical college which was to be the place of his professional preparation for life. There were with him as students at Lincoln University two other ambitious young men, who also had decided to pursue a medical career. The three prospective medical students entered into an agreement that each of them would attend a different medical college, and that the wisdom of their respective choices would be determined by their respective success out in the professional world. Mr. John S. Outlaw selected Howard University, Washington, D. C., as the theater of his medical investigations; Mr. A. M. Curtis, a cousin of Dr. Brown, selected a medical college in the city of Chicago, Ill., and the worthy subject of this sketch decided to attend the medical college of the University of Michigan.

HIS BRILLIANT CAREER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN.

In the autumn of 1888 the subject of this sketch matriculated as a student in the medical department of the University of Michigan. He went there to study, for he was eager to demonstrate to his former two colleagues that his was the wisest selection. He was a hard and conscientious student and sacrificed every social pleasure on the altar of diligence to duty. In his class of one hundred and one members he was the sole representative of his race, and that fact was an additional incentive for him to do his best. In his fierce determination to master the difficulties in his lessons, he often sat up the whole night, and so frequently was that the case that when he received his degree of Doctor of Medicine from the University of Michigan in the year of 1891 he was but little more than a walking skeleton.

One grand triumph that the doctor scored while a student at the University of Michigan gives him special pride. He succeeded in answering a question in ophthalmology on which every other student of the one hundred and one members of the class had failed ingloriously. The doctor's reward for having given the only correct answer was his appointment to an assistantship in the professor's office.

WHO WILL LOCATE IN ALABAMA?

A short time before the graduation of the class the professors made inquiry of all the graduates where each one expected to locate to practice the profession. In response to this inquiry the graduates named nearly every State in the Union except the State of Alabama. The reputation of the Alabama State Board of Medical Examiners seemed to have terrified them all, and there was not one member of the class that had determined to brave it. The subject of this sketch had never even thought of practicing his profession in the State of Alabama, but as soon as he had beheld the abject fear of his classmates and their avowed declaration to pass by the State of Alabama, he immediately resolved to brave the terrors of the Alabama medical examination and thus save the honor of his class.

HOME, HOME, SWEET HOME, AGAIN.

As soon as he had received his diploma of graduation from the University of Michigan he went directly to the city of Cleveland, Ohio, to which his parents had moved from the State of North Carolina, for the purpose of recuperating and enjoying his first season of absolute leisure for seven long years. There he rested and recuperated during the whole of the summer, but in the autumn of

1891 he turned his face in the direction of the State of Alabama. He submitted to the examination of the Alabama State Board and found the test to be up to the standard, but to his thoroughly trained mind the examination was the quintessence of simplicity. He passed the examination and made an average of 98 1-4 per cent., which was the highest average that had ever been made in the history of the examining board.

PRACTICING MEDICINE IN THE SOUTH.

His auspicious beginning was the harbinger of the success that was in store for him in a professional way. He hung out his shingle in the town of Bessemer, Ala., where he remained for two years, but the panic of 1893 so thoroughly deranged business affairs in the district around the city of Birmingham that he temporarily abandoned the practice of his profession in that town and returned home to Cleveland. At the expiration of one year he returned to the South, located in the city of Birmingham and took up the practice of Dr. Norman H. Hudson, who had become incapacitated for service in his profession, and had returned to his island home in the city of Jamaica, West Indies Islands.

The doctor practiced his profession in the city of Birmingham from 1894 until 1902, with the exception of one year's absence. In the year of 1902 he was induced to move to the city of Chicago to practice his profession. There he purchased a beautiful ten-room, two-story residence, and settled down to serious professional work, but the precarious health of his first wife compelled his return to the South in search of restoration for her. This extremity was, however, in vain, for she soon passed to her reward in a better land.

THE FIRST COLORED SURGEON IN THE REGULAR U. S. ARMY.

The practice of Dr. Brown in the city of Birmingham was carried on without interruption until the beginning of hostilities in the Spanish-American war, when the doctor had the unprecedented honor of being appointed a surgeon in the famous Tenth Cavalry of the United States army. When he received his commission in the month of July, 1898, he enjoyed the distinction of being the first colored surgeon that was ever officially connected with the regular army of the United States. He served as army surgeon for about a year in the fierce campaigns that were waged on the islands, and in the spring of 1899 he received his honorable discharge from the service of his country, returned to the city of Birmingham and resumed the practice which had been interrupted by the call to arms.

THE AUTHOR OF A BOOK.

Dr. Brown is an author as well as a physician, and, in collaboration with four other veterans of the Spanish-American war, he wrote an interesting book, entitled "Under Fire With the Tenth United States Cavalry." This book gives facts and inside information concerning the part which the colored soldier played in the insular war between the United States and the Kingdom of Spain. This book is of fascinating interest, and should be read by every patriotic colored American. Address the doctor for any information concerning this book.

A MEMBER OF A TALENTED FAMILY.

The doctor takes pardonable pride in the talented and accomplished family of which he is a member. Of the seven children that compose the family, two are practicing physicians, two are lawyers, two are dental surgeons, and the only daughter is the estimable wife of a disciple of the immortal Blackstone.

HIS DEVOTED AND ESTIMABLE WIFE.

On the 27th of September, 1905, Dr. Brown succeeded in diagnosing and curing one of the most obstinate cases of heart disease that he ever encountered and, strange to say, the disease afflicted the doctor himself. He cured this disease by wooing, winning and leading to the altar Miss Nellie Adams, of Birmingham, Ala. She is a native of the State of Georgia, and spent a part of her student life at Atlanta University. She is a young woman of superior intelligence, and at one time she held an honored position as teacher in the city schools of Birmingham. She is prominently connected with religious and club work among her people. She is devoted to the welfare and happiness of her husband and children, and she has no higher aspiration than to be able to minister, as best she can, to their necessities and pleasures.

HIS SUCCESS AS A PHYSICIAN.

The success of Dr. Brown as a practicing physician has been highly gratifying. The fact is, it has been phenomenal. Not only is he the peer of any other physician in his State as a general practitioner, but he is one of the greatest surgeons in the South. He has the reputation of having performed more successful operations than any other physician in the State of Alabama. His experience as a surgeon in the Spanish-American war was invaluable to him in affording him that opportunity for surgical experience which

only the field of slaughter can give. His practice is one of the largest in the State of Alabama, and there is general assurance of the best attention when he is called to the bedside of a patient.



DINING ROOM AND PARLOR OF DR. AND MRS. A. M. BROWN

HE OWNS ONE OF THE FINEST RESIDENCES IN THE STATE OF ALABAMA.

It is but reasonable to suppose that a physician of his long experience and unbounded success would have something substantial to

show for his professional activity. Such is indeed the case, for Dr. Brown is said to have one of the most palatial residences in the State of Alabama. It was planned by a great colored architect, and was built at an outlay of ten thousand (\$10,000) dollars.

A DESCRIPTION OF HIS RESIDENCE.

The style of the building is old English. It has specially designed oak doors and floors. The materials used in its construction are concrete blocks, stucco, stained shingles and hardwood floors. The residence has three floors and basement. In the basement are the furnace room, coal room and laundry room. On the first floor are ten rooms, reception, drawing, library, dining, breakfast, pantry, kitchen, guest chamber, coat and cloak and cold storage. It has special designs for doors, leaded glass windows, beam ceilings, buffet, brick mantels, cozy corners, seats and art glass, with electric lights and plumbing of the latest and most improved styles. Colored effects as to harmony of each room to suit the furniture. Mission, Flemish and Louis XIV. effects are predominant. The second floor has eight rooms, as follows: Three bed rooms, children's room, servants' room, bath room, linen room, sewing room, trunk room and the doctor's palatial den. Clothes and cloak closets are provided for each suite of rooms. The third floor has a reception room and is finished up with beaver board, with exposed beam ceiling, with seats, and with special design Dutch furniture. Walls, ceiling and furniture are in mission finish.

This is a careful description of the doctor's palatial mansion, which is fit for the dwelling place of one of the great barons of mediaeval times. It is not only one of the most elegant and one of the most complete residences in the Southland, but it is one of the most palatial in the United States belonging to a member of the Negro race. Just as this magnificent residence is the climax of excellence in the builder's art, so is the doctor himself one of the crowning glories of the medical profession. In the very prime of life and vigor, there is hope that many more years of well-earned success will be his, and that he will continue to be in the future what he has ever been in the past, one of the ablest and one of the most public-spirited citizens of the Magic City of the South.

Rev. C. L. Bonner, B.D., D.D., Toccoa, Ga.

PRESIDING ELDER ELBERTON DISTRICT C. M. E. CHURCH.

THAT the Negro race is the beneficiary of God's providence and that it is blessed in spite of the thousands of disadvantages and burdens which the teeming centuries of the past have imposed upon it, is evident from the number of strong, useful and able men whose sympathetic hearts, powerful intellects and exemplary lives have caused



REV. AND MRS. C. L. BONNER

them voluntarily to assume leaderships, bear the brunt and turmoil of conflict, and carry the race upward and onward to progress, prosperity and honor. It has ever been the wisdom of Providence to prepare and provide for every people that which will enable them to live the most successful and the most glorious life that it is possible for them to live. In all ages of the world men

have risen from the most humble conditions to positions of responsibility and honor among their people. They have indelibly impressed their characters upon the institutions of their times and have helped to make the world, in every possible way, better and grander because they live, move and have their being in it. Such is the ambition and record of the worthy, useful and able divine, Rev. C. L. Bonner, whose short life story is herein portrayed.

HIS BIRTHPLACE.

The wealth of a community does not depend upon its climate or its fertile soil, or its natural productions, but it does depend upon the intelligence and character of the men and women that it produces for the battles and conflicts of life. In Dallas County, Alabama, November 2, 1872, there was born of humble but honorable origin a being that was destined to become a great power for the uplift of his people along material, intellectual and moral lines. He was born on a farm, and was the dutiful and ambitious son of a minister of the gospel. Thus it may be seen that the subject of this sketch is a native of Alabama, and that everything that he represents in the way of usefulness and progress is a compliment to the State of his nativity.

HIS EDUCATION.

The efforts of the subject to gain an education is a splendid tribute to his resolute and determined spirit, and should be an incentive to the ambitious and struggling youth of the race to persevere until they reach the goal of their ambition. He was first sent by his parents to the common schools of his home county, and remained therein until he had reached his thirteenth birthday, when his school career, for the time, was brought to an abrupt close. His father had purchased a farm and really needed the services of his son at home to help the father make the money with which to pay for the farm. The son was loyal to his father's interests and willingly worked, sacrificed and hoped for the day when the farm would be paid for and when he might return to school and complete his education. When he had attained his majority he returned to school and entered Paine College, Augusta, Ga., in which institution he graduated from the Academic Department in the year of 1898.

A STUDENT OF CLARKE UNIVERSITY.

After his graduation from the academic department of Paine College, he matriculated at Clarke University, Atlanta, Ga., for the

purpose of pursuing and completing the classical course. However, it was not his good fortune to complete the entire classical course, but he did prosecute his studies until he had about completed the first half of his Senior year in college, when a change in his conference work suddenly brought to a close his college career. For all practical purposes, Rev. Bonner might be considered an alumnus of Clarke University, for out in the great university of life he has not only graduated with the highest honors, but he has taken several post-graduate courses.

A GRADUATE OF GAMMON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY.

In the year of 1902, while he was serving as pastor of Butler Street C. M. E. Church, Atlanta, Ga., the subject of this sketch took advantage of the splendid opportunities for theological study which his fortunate pastorate gave him, and matriculated as a student of Gammon Theological Seminary. He pursued his ministerial studies with diligence, and received as his reward his diploma of graduation from that historic seminary in the year of 1904.

A MINISTER OF THE GOSPEL.

"Like father, like son," is truly representative of the ministerial career of the subject. His father was one of the pioneer ministers of the C. M. E. Church, and helped to blaze out the path for the present generation. Rev. C. L. Bonner began his career in the gospel ministry in the year of 1898, when he was in his twenty-sixth year. He has had one of the most successful careers in the history of his branch of the Christian church, and is considered one of the ministerial beacon lights of his denomination. In the course of his worthy and useful career in the traveling connection he has served with credit the following charges: Waycross Station, one year; First Church, Savannah, Ga., three years; Butler Street Church, Atlanta, Ga., two years. At the present time he is serving in his seventh year as presiding elder of the Elberton District, Georgia Conference.

PRESIDING ELDER ELBERTON DISTRICT, GEORGIA CONFERENCE.

It has been the good fortune of very few ministers of the gospel to be as great a factor for the advancement and uplift of the race as is the reverend subject of this sketch. He proved his superior worth while laboring in the pastorate, but the sphere of his service and usefulness has immeasurably increased since the beginning of his term as presiding elder of the Elberton District, Georgia Con-

ference. In the district over which he has so long and so ably presided there are twenty-six churches, with a total membership of 3,000. In the performance of his duties he has not only taken great interest in the spiritual and moral uplift of his people, but he has bent all the energies of his mind and body to their intellectual and material progress. He has inaugurated a happy departure from the old order of things, and has adopted the latest twentieth century methods for his people. While he has preached to his people about the beauties of the New Jerusalem in the world to come, yet he has not failed to exhort his people to make the best and most honorable use of the Jerusalem of opportunity that is right at them every day of their terrestrial lives. Living among the farming classes of his people, he has striven in every possible manner to edify and enlighten them along the line of their life work. He realizes the importance of the farmer to the life of the nation, and that in proportion to the degree that the farmer can intelligently and wisely look after his interests will not only the race but the nation prosper. He sees the progress of the race, not in the congested centers of population, where it is the scourge of sickness, disease and death, but in the country on the farm, where amidst intelligence and plenty, the whole race may blossom like the rose.

HIS FARMERS' CONFERENCES.

In connection with his meetings in the district, he calls the farmers together at stated intervals with these two objects in view, viz: (1) That his preachers may study more seriously the economic condition of the people whom they serve; (2) that the people may see that the preacher is a constructive force in the community, and not merely a human parasite that is destructive in its tendencies. Unusual interest has been manifested in their meetings, and every discussion has for its object the direct and lasting benefit of the farmers who are most directly concerned. Some of the subjects which have already been discussed are as follows:

- (a) The Necessity for the Negro's Keeping Close to the Soil.
- (b) The Value of Intensive Farming.
- (c) What Part of the Farm Should Be Planted in Food Crops?
- (d) Why Should the City Be Interested in Country Life?
- (e) To What Extent Should Cattle and Hog Raising Be Carried On Upon the Farm? etc., etc., etc.

As it has already been stated, these discussions are all practical and timely and of inestimable benefit to the farmers of his district. There is always benefit in wise discussion and deliberation, for wise men deliberate and weigh opinions, while fools quarrel only to

destroy each other. The success of the farmers' conferences has proved so pronounced that other presiding elders may imitate his worthy example and thus help to stimulate the farmers of the race to the highest degree of efficiency along the line of the most important occupation under the sun in heaven. Any discussion that will open the eyes of the farming classes of the race as to how they may be able to wrest from nature's laboratory the greatest possible percentage of yield is worthy of the greatest encouragement. The Negroes of the South, through the instrumentality of such leaders as Rev. C. L. Bonner and others, will stimulate the agricultural output of the South and prove the natural superiority of the black race over all other races as cultivators of the soil in this sunny Southland.

In these conferences white friends of the race are not only interested spectators, but they are cheerful participants in the discussions. This willing co-operation of men of both races has greater significance than one would ordinarily think. It means an awakened interest in the fundamental occupation of the human race. It means better results for both races and a corresponding increase of respect and love of farm life among the masses of both races.

FOUNDER OF HARTWELL AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL INSTITUTE.

Rev. C. L. Bonner has demonstrated to the world in a concrete manner his belief in the importance and value of education by founding a school in which the youth of the race may be trained in habits of industry in connection with moral and intellectual training. The subject of this sketch organized at Hartwell, Ga., the school which is so widely and so favorably known as Hartwell Agricultural and Industrial Institute. Under the auspices of this school the farmers in its community hold their meetings, and the school is in many respects a social, intellectual and moral center, whence radiates much of the best thought of the people of the community. Rev. Bonner has no reason to feel discouraged concerning the outlook for his school, for he has already, in many instances, seen substantial and tangible results emanate from the institution which he founded.

HONORS FROM HIS CHURCH.

He has been honored with election to two general conferences of the C. M. E. Church. He was honored with the position of fraternal delegate to the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Asheville, N. C., representing the C. M. E. Church. He has already been elected a delegate to the Ecumenical Conference

to be held in Toronto, Canada, in the year of 1911. He is worthy of every honor in the gift of the church, and the coming years will prove the wisdom of the church's conferring the highest honors upon its worthiest men.

A SHREWD AND ENTERPRISING BUSINESS MAN.

As a shrewd, enterprising and aggressive business man, the subject is one of the most successful in the ranks of his church. While his earthly labors will receive their due reward in the world to come, Rev. Bonner is not at all averse to receiving and enjoying some of the benefits of his labors while sojourning on this terrestrial ball. He is not only highly successful as a financier in the church, but he is the prince of financiers in the business world. He is energetic, thrifty and aggressive, and has the faculty of being able to take care of himself in any business proposition. Becoming modesty forbids his admitting it, but Rev. Bonner is in splendid circumstances with reference to the goods of this world. He has accumulated houses and lands to an extent that is far out of the ordinary for a minister of the gospel. There is nothing to the detriment of the minister who is endowed with enough pride and manhood to enable him to lay by something for the inevitable rainy day which will come to both preacher and layman alike. If a minister would truly exert an influence for good among his people, he must preach to them both by precept and example. The most eloquent sermon that can be preached to a people is not with words but with deeds of success. The time has long since passed and gone when men without a semblance of a home will get into the pulpits of the race and exhort it how to live. The material success of Rev. Bonner has done the whole race good, and it is hoped that his extraordinary success will influence others to go and try to do likewise.

HIS DEVOTED AND ESTIMABLE WIFE.

The year of 1902 blazes forth like a beacon light in the portals of his memory, for on the ever memorable 21st of January of that year it was the happy privilege of Rev. Bonner to woo, win and lead to the altar Miss Roxie Rhodes, of Waynesboro, Ga., and dedicate the energies of his life to her comfort and happiness. In addition to the intellectual enjoyment that Paine College afforded him when he was a student in its classic walls, he was the recipient of that enjoyment which only the future companion of his life could confer. His future wife was likewise a student at Paine College, and not only did both of them study the contents of their books, but

each one of them had ample opportunity in which to study the character and merits of each other. His devoted wife also studied at Clarke University, Atlanta, Ga., and thus she had the best educational training. She is a cultured woman and worthy to be the life companion of her talented and progressive husband. She is of a modest and retiring disposition, and prefers the seclusion of her home instead of the limelight of public activity. She is devoted to her husband and home, and her greatest ambition is to contribute all of her energies and talents to promoting the happiness of her husband and the comforts of his home. She prefers to reign as queen of her home, and in this respect there is no other woman more devoted and more loyal to her trust. The race needs women of her temperament, for the home is the foundation of society. The storms of life may blow in fury over the head of her husband, but he will ever have a safe refuge when he enters the sacred confines of his home, sweet home.

DEPUTY GRAND CHANCELLOR KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS.

Not only is the worthy subject of this sketch prominent in religious and educational circles, but he is conspicuous in the ranks of the Knights of Pythias of the State of Georgia, being the honored Deputy Grand Chancellor of that organization. This fraternity has a membership of between ten and fifteen thousand in the State, and pays an endowment of \$350. The litigation of the order in the past few years has militated somewhat against its progress, but it is still a great and militant organization, and is doing its share of good in promoting the welfare of the race.

HE CULTIVATES AMITY AND CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE RACES.

That the subject of this sketch is endowed with the requisites of true leadership for his people is evidenced by the spirit of amity and co-operation that he tries to cultivate and establish between the members of both races in this Southland. He appreciates the truth of the old maxim that no man liveth entirely unto himself, and that he lives best and noblest who can deserve and command the sympathy, friendship and co-operation of those with whom his lot is cast. He has labored to be a constructive force for good in his community, and not a destructive force for evil. He is not an agitator and extremist, but he is known and appreciated for his conservative ideas. He has long since realized the benefits which always accrue by cultivating the good will and friendship of his white neighbors, and the wisdom of his course has been demonstrated in an infinite variety of ways. He commands the respect, confidence and assistance of his white neighbors, who have taken pride in his

efforts in behalf of his race, and they have from time to time given him substantial evidences of their sympathy and friendly co-operation.

A REAL LEADER OF HIS RACE.

Rev. C. L. Bonner has every qualification for superior leadership. As he is an educated man and not an intemperate ignoramus, he can always make his appeal to the intelligence of his people rather than to their prejudices and passions. He is as much interested in the material progress of his people as he is in their moral, intellectual and religious welfare, for this is a materialistic age. He has the happy faculty of deserving the best wishes of the members of the dominant race, as well as those of his own race, and his great success is in a large measure due to his peculiar power in this direction. He is one of the leading ministers of his church, and is recognized as such all over his State. He has legitimately accumulated the foundation for a competency in life, and is thus a worthy example of successful achievement. He is enterprising, energetic and aggressive as a business man and a human dynamo of activity along all worthy and useful lines. Nature herself seems to have stamped the badge of pre-eminence on him, for she gave him a magnificence of body and mind that easily makes him one of the most observed and one of the most popular men of his section of the country. He is hopeful and optimistic concerning the future of the race, and he is daily doing all that he can do to promote and conserve the progress, welfare and prosperity of his people.





MOSES A. CLARK

Moses A. Clark, Marianna, Ark.

EDITOR OF THE OPINION-ENTERPRISE AND P. G. M. OF F. A. A. M.
OF ARKANSAS.



FROM the earliest Biblical days, the name of Moses has been synonymous with the term leadership, and judging by its significance in so many worthy instances of this day and time, there is no reason to doubt that there is still in this name much of its ancient potency. It is tritely said that some men are born great, while others have greatness thrust upon them. To these two classes there may be added a third class, viz., those who, through the invincible genius of work have surmounted every obstacle in their pathway to success, proved equal to every responsibility which the exigencies of life have imposed upon them, and made their name and fame the common heritage and glory of their countrymen. Thus better than heaven-born genius, yea, better than being born great, is the genius of hard and unremitting labor, and that man will command the greatest success in life who does not despair because his opportunities did not bless him with instruction in college walls, in preparation for the highest rewards and honors of life, but who, in spite of the lack of such advantages, resolves to work unceasingly in the cultivation of his moral, physical and intellectual nature until he will have realized in his own personality the best power and strength that the Almighty intended him to possess.

The readers of this book are herein brought face to face with a man whose success in life, when contrasted with his lowly origin and humble opportunities, seems nearly incredible. In this strong, representative and progressive citizen may be seen the fullest fruition of that type of American genius which is commonly styled the self-made man. Though the subject had no educational advantages whatsoever, except those which his indomitable will enabled him to acquire, yet his almost matchless ability enabled him for over a quarter of a century to stand at the head of a great fraternal organization, dictate its policies and make it nearly unapproachable in the domain of progressiveness and excellence. The name of this peerless leader and eminent citizen is none other than Mr. Moses A. Clark, of Marianna, Ark., Past Grand Master of the Free. Ancient and Accepted Masons of the State of Arkansas.

HIS BIRTHPLACE.

The State of Tennessee takes much pride in the nativity of the subject of this sketch, for he was born in the borders of that State,

near Germantown, a suburb of Memphis, August 15, 1834. The storms of over seventy-six winters have passed over his head and prolonged his useful life far beyond the years of the present generation, but Father Time has dealt very leniently with him, and there are indeed few men of his age living today that can compare with him in intellectual strength, physical vigor and masculine robustness. Instead of being a man in the last stages of senility, which condition would be nothing out of the ordinary for a man of his advanced years, he seems still in the enjoyment of manhood's prime, and bids fair to enjoy many more years of service and usefulness to his race.

A SLAVE FOR A QUARTER OF A CENTURY.

Mr. Clark has no hesitation in proclaiming to the world the fact that he was not only born a slave, but that he wore the badge of servitude for a quarter of a century. He has no apology to make for the dark days of his servitude, for the glorious blessings of freedom have more than compensated him for the servile existence he endured. Moreover, he has reason to believe that his former involuntary life as a slave enables him today more highly to appreciate the blessings of freedom. He was brought from the State of Tennessee to Cotton Plant, Arkansas, in 1849. In the year of 1856 it was the fate of the subject to be sold to Mr. S. W. Childress, who sent him to Helena, Ark., under the protection and instruction of Mr. James M. Alexander, Sr., to learn the mysteries of the tonsorial art. That he succeeded in the mastery of the trade is evidenced by the fact that he successfully followed the trade in different places for many years. In the days of slavery he was not only one of the most capable artists in the tonsorial business, but he was also a famous pastry cook, and in that capacity his culinary skill delighted the palates of a host of passengers whose patronage made life merry on the palatial steamers which plied on the Mississippi River in those early days.

HIS EDUCATION.

The educational advantages of the subject may be epitomized in his own language, when he says: "I never attended school a minute in my life, nor had a lesson from any one, except what I picked up by observation." Born as he was in the days of slavery, it was against the laws of the land to permit slaves to be educated, for the institution of slavery would have been imperiled if knowledge had been given to the slaves. While no real privileges of educational training were his, yet his various relations as houseboy, barber and

steward constantly threw him in contact with the most intelligent classes of the white race, and enabled him incidentally to pick up a good working knowledge of letters and reading. How he learned to write shows what power resolution has in itself. It was his privilege, in the days of his early manhood, to reside in the city of Nashville, Tenn., which city was then, as it is now, a great social and intellectual center. It was the home of many attractive and charming young women, and, as the subject himself was young and handsome to look upon, and anxious to play his part in the enchanting game of courtship and love, it is needless to state that he was the center of a large and admiring circle of friends. This condition was well enough as long as he continued to reside in the Rock City, but in the course of time it fell to his lot to move from the city of Nashville to St. Louis, Mo., and thus leave behind his youthful and persistent enamoras. Then for the first time in his life he felt the need of a knowledge of writing, for he must keep in touch with his admirers of the fair and gentler sex. It was indeed a bitter pill for him to swallow when he was compelled to hire a French bootblack to write for him a letter back home to his best girl. He thereupon resolved to do his own writing of love letters after that time, and to enable him to do so, he purchased one of the old Blue Back Spellers, out of which he laboriously learned the nature and forms of the script. Having learned the formation of the letters of the alphabet in script, it was only necessary for him to be shown how to join the script together to enable him to do his own writing ever afterward.

Mr. Clark has spent many years of his life "bridging back" over subjects which the institution of slavery forbade his knowing. With the dawn of freedom he realized to the fullest extent his intellectual deficiencies, and endeavored by hard study to remedy them. He was not at all embarrassed to be seen eagerly studying the "Three R's," nor did he feel disgraced to be seen studying rhetoric and logic in order to prepare himself to preside with becoming dignity and intelligence over the exalted office to which the unanimous voice of his comrades had elevated him. In his laudable ambition to prepare his mind for intelligent service as a leader for his people, he ran nearly the whole gamut of necessary studies and by his self-application and diligence he has attained to a scholarship that is a credit not only to one of his lowly origin, but to any man with far better opportunities than the subject ever did have. Many a man with collegiate training has not done half so well in the great race of life as has the worthy subject of this sketch.

FREE, FREE AT LAST.

At the close of the Civil War the subject again made Helena, Ark., his home. As he was a man of intelligence and experience, the many opportunities for personal advancement and material gain along so many lines were so great that he had every incentive to prepare himself to serve his people in various capacities and he did fill with credit several positions of trust and responsibility.

ADMITTED TO THE BAR TO PRACTICE LAW.

In the decade of the seventies the subject became ambitious to study law for the purpose of practicing the legal profession. In the prosecution of his law course he became puzzled and perplexed by the numerous Latin phrases with which that study teems; so in his extremity he went to Judge T. B. Hanly and secured a Latin-English dictionary, and applied himself diligently to the mastery of those phrases which had produced such consternation in his mind. He read law about six hours a day for seven years, and at the expiration of that time he went before the Judge and passed the most creditable examination of any candidate for several years. He was formally admitted to the practice of law and he still has the legal qualification to plead the cause of his countrymen before the bar of public justice. His preparation and knowledge of law made him a very capable Justice of the Peace, which office he filled with credit for several years.

HIS OFFICIAL RECORD.

In the days following the Civil War he had the honor of serving as Justice of the Peace in Helena, Arkansas, for nine years. In addition to his election as delegate to many political conventions in his State, he was honored with election as delegate to the first Colored Men's National Convention at Louisville, Ky. These honors were conferred upon him thus early in the days of his freedom, because the people instinctively saw in him an able and worthy citizen and one that would reflect credit upon the race.

A MASON FOR FORTY-FIVE YEARS.

It was in the year of 1866 that the subject was initiated into the circle of Masonry, and in his long, faithful and honorable career with the craft he has filled practically every office in the gift of the fraternity. He was the First Junior Deacon of J. M. Alexander Lodge, and filled in it all of the other official stations except that of Tyler. At the organization of the Most Worthy Grand Lodge

of Arkansas in the year of 1873 he was elected First Grand Senior Deacon, but he acted as Grand Lecturer for R. W. Isaac Coursey, who had been elected First Grand Lecturer. His subsequent career in Masonry was but a continuation of its auspicious beginning, for he filled many of the offices of trust and responsibility in the gift of the Grand Lodge.

GRAND MASTER FOR TWENTY-FIVE YEARS.

When the subject first connected himself with Masonic work it was with the intention of some day reaching the top, the most exalted office in the gift of the order. His temperament is such that he is not satisfied merely to "join in the chorus" of life, but he has ever been ambitious to play a leading part in the singing. In pursuance of this worthy ambition he studied hard and worked hard for the mastery and understanding of the principles of the order, and he did this so effectively that way back in the year of 1881, at its session at Fort Smith, Arkansas, he was unanimously elected to the exalted position of Grand Master of the State. This responsible position at the head of that fraternity was held for the unprecedented period of twenty-five years before surrendering his official toga to a successor. It was not mere luck which for such an extraordinary length of time caused him to preside over the destiny of this most ancient and most honorable organization, but it was his masterly ability that caused him to seize and hold the reins of power for a quarter of a century.

SOME ACHIEVEMENTS OF HIS ADMINISTRATION.

(a)

GROWTH IN LODGES AND MEMBERSHIP.

At the time of his accession to the throne of Masonic power there were only thirteen lodges in the State, with a total membership of about 300 Masons, but at the close of his administration of twenty-five years, the number of lodges had increased nearly to 300 and the total membership to nearly 6,000 of the best and most representative people of the State of Arkansas.

(b)

THE ENDOWMENT DEPARTMENT.

He was one of the first advocates of the Masonic Benefit Fund, and it was through his recommendation and persistent advocacy that the endowment feature became one of the beneficent measures of

the order. Its adoption as one of the cardinal obligations of the order was a matter of evolution, because it had to run the gauntlet of apprehension, suspicion and fear on the part of some of the ablest men in the State. From being merely an optional measure at first, it has been incorporated into the very structure of the order, and has done untold good in ministering to the cause of benevolence and material help to thousands of its members at the most needful time of their lives. It is safe to estimate that not less than \$200,000 has been paid to the widows and orphans of the order by this department. It is managed in a business-like manner, and is now one of the most attractive as well as one of the most necessary features of the order. The endowment is \$250.

(c)

MASONIC TEMPLE BUILDING.

At his suggestion and recommendation, the Grand Lodge of the State of Arkansas built the Masonic Temple at Pine Bluff, Arkansas. This magnificent structure was erected at a total cost of \$65,000, and is considered one of the handsomest buildings in the country. It is a massive four-story building of pressed brick, stone and terra cotta, and reflects the greatest possible credit upon the Masonic fraternity of Arkansas.

OTHER HIGH HONORS.

In the year of 1887, at its meeting in the city of Chicago, he was unanimously chosen chairman of the National Masonic Congress. He was elected and served two terms as Most Excellent Grand High Priest of Royal Arch Masons, and in the year of 1890 he was received into and acknowledged as a member of the Magnanimous and Chivalric Order of Knights Templars. December 8th, 1901, at South McAlisterville, I. T., he had conferred upon himself all the "Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite Degrees of Free Masonry," including the last and thirty-third degree, by the illustrious Thornton A. Jackson, M. P. Sovereign Grand Inspector General for the Southern Jurisdiction, U. S. A.

HE MOVED TO MARIANNA IN 1879.

Owing to the fact that the climate of Helena was harmful to the physical welfare of his wife, Mr. Clark and his estimable wife moved from Helena to Marianna in the year of 1879, when the town of Marianna was more like a wilderness than a metropolis. Being one of the pioneer citizens of the town, it was his opportunity and

privilege to "get in on the ground floor" and lay a solid foundation for his present substantial station in life.

HIS LAMENTED WIFE.

October 5th, 1870, Mr. Clark was united in marriage to Miss Georgia A. Coursey, of Helena, Ark., one of the most faithful and one of the best women that ever lived. For forty years they walked hand in hand down the road of life, bearing each other's burdens and encouraging each other with their fidelity and love. Their long life was one of happiness, but it was also one of serious responsibility, for the Lord, in His infinite wisdom, entrusted to them the precious lives of twenty-three children, all by his one wife. This most extraordinary woman was highly intelligent and was educated far beyond the standard of her youthful days. She was educated at Berea College, when that famous institution was at its zenith, and she lacked but a few months of completing the course in that institution. She was carried to her reward April 27, 1910. Peace to her ashes.

EDITOR OF THE OPINION-ENTERPRISE.

In the year of 1907 the subject entered the arena of journalism without any previous training but his own common sense. He has acceptably and creditably edited his paper, The Opinion-Enterprise, until (now) it is recognized as one of the leading colored newspapers of the State of Arkansas. He is a thinker and a man of such mental equipoise as is needed to serve in such a responsible position as editor of a colored newspaper in the South. He is conservative rather than radical in his ideas and opinions, and believes in appealing to the best natures of both races, rather than to their prejudices and passions. In the moulding of good sentiment between the two races in his State he is past master on the side of conservatism, and his timely editorials have often soothed intensified minds and have reduced them to sanity and reason. He stands for peace, friendship and co-operation between the two races in this Southland, and his highest ambition is to conserve the welfare and best interests of both.

HIS WEALTH.

Fortune has smiled upon the efforts of Mr. Clark, for he is one of the most substantial men in his State. He owns stock in the Arizona & Arkansas Mining Company. He is one of the largest owners of realty in the town of Marianna. He owns six brick stores, three substantial residences on the main thoroughfare of the

town, three pieces of unimproved property, a large two-story residence splendidly located, and a farm of 80 acres near Palestine, St. Francis County. He is a strong man and highly respected citizen in his home town, and no other man of the race is more highly respected and honored by all classes.

AN ESTIMATE OF THE SUBJECT.

Mr. Clark is not only one of the best known men, but he is one of the most popular men in the State of Arkansas. He does not enjoy an ephemeral popularity, but his personality has become a part of the general worth of the State. He has wrought well for the race and its institutions, and he can desire no greater monument to his memory than the mighty fraternal institution that is now known and honored throughout the land. He is a man that is as big in mind as he is in body, and he is in every respect one of nature's noblemen. He is one of the most practical and one of the most logical speakers in the State of Arkansas. He is a close reasoner and has proved more than a match for some of the most able and most brilliant men in his State. It would have been impossible for him to have held his exalted office for twenty-five years if he had been backed by superficial talents instead of real merit. There is no political policy that can safely entrench a man in popular esteem and favor for a quarter of a century unless there is something potential both in his character and his ability. He is of a jovial temperament; he is a good neighbor and a good citizen, and commands the respect of his fellow citizens of both races. He is not a mossback, notwithstanding his advanced years, but his eyes are ever turned to the sun of progress, and he is now making as much preparation to live as if he were a young man in his prime. He is one of the best examples of progress and aggressiveness in the ranks of the race and the State of his adoption should be congratulated for having such a worthy and such a useful man in its service and on the roll of its citizenship.





W. A. J. Morgan, Shelby, Miss.

GRAND MASTER OF THE MOST WORSHIPFUL STRINGER GRAND LODGE
OF MASONS.



WHATEVER may be said concerning the inequalities of American life insofar as they affect the destiny and welfare of the Negro race in this Southland, there can be no denial of the fact that thousands of members of the race have not been seriously hindered by these conditions in their onward

march to race success and progress. There are men of sterling character and successful achievement all over this Southland, who ask the world no sympathy because of the fact that they are black and who have no apology to make because their ancestors were once in involuntary servitude, for they are daily demonstrating the fact that life with all people is what they will it to be, and that the rewards of industry, sobriety, honesty, frugality and the other cardinal virtues of character are the same for all men, be they rich or poor, high or low, white or black. Among the high class, successful leaders of the race in the State of Mississippi, no other man is entitled to more credit and honor than Mr. W. A. J. Morgan, of Shelby, Miss., the exalted leader of the Masonic fraternity of that State.

HIS BIRTHPLACE AND EDUCATION.

On February the second, in the year of 1859, the worthy and honored subject of this narrative first saw the light of day in the village of Augusta, Perry County, Mississippi. Born as he was amidst a farming environment, his educational advantages were limited in comparison with those of many other highly successful men of the present day, and this very fact makes his ability and prominence as a public leader only the more creditable. His educational advantages were restricted to the irregular and uncertain terms of the public and private schools of his home community in the days of his youth. He was reared on the farm, and had to win his diploma of graduation with his muscle from the soil, instead of winning it with his intellect from some proud and pampered alma mater. The university of life is the main school from which Mr. Morgan has graduated, and in this school he has won a recognition and standing that have been conferred upon few that are even loaded down with college degrees and inscribed sheepskins. He is a man of the highest intelligence and really makes up in native ability what he may lack in scholastic attainments. He is a man that is thoroughly educated in the ways of the world, and thus is well prepared for the exigencies of practical life.

A PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

As proud as Mr. Morgan ought to be because of the exalted position that he holds in the esteem and affections of his people, yet he is without doubt equally as proud of the noble occupation of farming, of which he is one of the worthiest exponents. Not only was he reared on a farm, but the occupation of farming has been the main work of his eventful life. He is a farmer in independent circumstances, and just such a farmer as the nation needs to promote its welfare and prosperity. He owns two farms, with a total

of 127 acres of fertile land. One of these farms is in Sunflower County, and the other is in Boliver County, about two miles from Shelby, Miss., his home town. His farming lands are in the main cultivated by tenants, because the fraternal and business interests of Mr. Morgan render it impossible for him to engage actively in the management of his farming affairs.

THE LEADER OF THE MASONS.

For nearly twenty years Mr. Morgan has been identified with the Masonic fraternity of his native State, and much of the prestige and power of that organization has been due to his untiring fidelity and zeal. He has ever been an indefatigable worker in the councils of the order, and the final reward of his labors is the leadership of the order in his native State. By slow and honorable gradations he has come from the bottom to the topmost round of the ladder of Masonry, and in his long and honorable career with the craft he has filled with credit the following offices: Grand Sword Bearer for five years; Grand Junior Warden for three years; Grand Senior Warden for one year; Deputy Grand Master for six years and eight months, and District Grand Master for eight years. So faithfully, honorably and creditably did he serve in these various capacities that in the fullness of time, by the nearly unanimous vote of his fellow craftsmen, he was elevated to the highest office in their gift. The culmination of his success in fraternity work was experienced in the month of December, 1910, in the town of Holly Springs, Miss. The exalted office to which Mr. Morgan was elevated had been the ambition of many of the ablest men of the order in the State, but Mr. Morgan was easily the choice of the members of the order from almost every section of the State to succeed the lamented Bishop E. W. Lampton as Grand Master of the State of Mississippi. Mr. Morgan was the unanimous choice of the members of the order from the delta section of the State, and the cohorts of the order in the delta went to the town of Holly Springs with the grim determination to bring back with them for one of their distinguished fellow citizens the exalted office of Grand Master of the State of Mississippi, and they bore down upon the forces of the opposition with the irresistible force of the Macedonian phalanx of ancient times. The fidelity of their united action and the worthiness of their candidate rendered all opposition to them futile, and the result was a glorious victory for their cause.

MEMBERSHIP AND GROWTH OF THE ORDER.

The Masonic fraternity of the State of Mississippi represents as much intelligence, wealth and character as can be found in any high class fraternal organization in any State of the Federal Union. In its councils are found men that are eminent for their learning,

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piety and business aggressiveness, and it is no mistake to declare any one to be a fortunate man to be thus so signally honored by his fellows. The name of Mason is one to conjure with in most any country of the civilized world, but when it is applied to the Negroes of the State of Mississippi, it is the synonym for everything that is worthy, progressive and uplifting to the race.

The growth of the fraternity in the State of Mississippi has kept pace with the progress of the race in intelligence and wealth. Masonry stands for intelligence and high character, and it welcomes to its ranks only those who fulfill these requirements. Men that are ordinarily acceptable to the ranks of many of the other fraternities would not be admitted into fellowship with the Masonic fraternity. While the growth of the order has been phenomenal as to numbers, at the same time it has had a gratifying growth along the line of intelligence and moral worth. From the standpoint of high character, influence, intelligence and wealth, the Masonic fraternity stands at the head of fraternal organizations of the race. So great has been its growth in numbers that there are in the State of Mississippi not less than 15,000 or 16,000 members of the craft. The fraternity is a militant organization, and is conquering the intelligence and wealth of the race.

ITS ENDOWMENT POLICY.

One of the most substantial features of the Masonic fraternity of Mississippi is the generous sum of money that is devoted for endowment protection. Its endowment policy is \$700, and the resources of the order are of such a character as to enable it to carry out to the letter every obligation that it may contract. For this purpose a large sum of money is disbursed annually, and to the same extent are the sufferings and miseries of the fraternity's bereaved ones speedily and certainly relieved.

COMPARISON WITH HIS PREDECESSORS.

Some remarkable men have graced with their talents and dignity the exalted office of Grand Master of the Masonic fraternity of the State of Mississippi. The immediate predecessor of Mr. Morgan, Bishop E. W. Lampton, was one of the foremost men of his day in more respects than one, but the difference between the two men was more a difference in quality than quantity of talents. Mr. Morgan has every necessary equipment for a successful leader of the race. He is an honest man and therefore will have an honest administration; he is also a business man, and therefore will have a business administration. He is a man of sound judgment, quick

perception and unflinching courage in what he believes to be right. He has the knack of doing things well and getting substantial results in whatever he attempts. He is an admirable presiding officer, and can wield the gavel as effectively and with as much dignity as he can hoe a row or plow a furrow, for his hands are horny with incessant and honorable toil. Mr. Morgan does not hold a diploma from a school of oratory, but he is an effective and convincing speaker, and his plain, unaffected and logical reasoning has done much to establish him as a solid and influential man among the members of the craft. He is a credit and an ornament to the fraternity, and no backward step was made by the members of the order when they, with practical unanimity, elevated him to its leadership.

HIS POPULARITY.

Mr. Morgan is easily one of the most popular men in the borders of the State of Mississippi, and he stands as high in the real affections of the members of his race as he stands in popular favor. In his home town and county he enjoys the appreciation, confidence and esteem of all classes, irrespective of race, and both whites and blacks rejoiced when it was first known that such a great honor had been conferred upon one of their fellow townsmen. He is a good mixer among the masses of the race, and in this respect he has an ideal equipment for the leadership of a great fraternity. He is not only a Mason of the highest degree, but he is identified in an honorable way with other representative fraternities in his State. In fact, he commands the respect and best wishes of all classes of his fellow citizens, and is considered one of the leaders of the race, not only in fraternity circles, but in the whole domain of excellence pertaining to the race.

HIS RACE INVESTMENTS.

Mr. Morgan is a race man to the core, and no better evidence of this fact can be adduced than his various investments in race enterprises. He is a stockholder of the Farmers' Union, a mercantile and tailoring establishment of Greenwood, Mississippi. He is a stockholder in the Bank of Mound Bayou, Miss., one of the flourishing financial institutions of the delta. He is a stockholder of the Mound Bayou Oil Mill Manufacturing Company, a corporation that is capitalized at \$100,000, and is said to be the only enterprise of its kind in America. He is a stockholder of the Union Guaranty Insurance Company of Mississippi, a general bonding and insurance company, which seems to have a prosperous future in looking after fiduciary affairs of the race. He is also a stockholder of the Mississippi Beneficial Life Insurance Company of Mississippi, an insti-

tution that seems destined to be the greatest life insurance company that was ever promoted in the interest of the race.

HIS WEALTH.

Life has been no flowery bed of ease for Mr. Morgan, for he has ever been a hard and indefatigable worker; but fortune has smiled upon his labors and sacrifices and he is now one of the prosperous and wealthy men of his native State. In addition to his valuable farming lands in the delta, he has splendid property both in Shelby and in Gulfport, Miss. His residence in the town of Shelby is commodious in size and modern in construction, and thoroughly in harmony with a man in his circumstances and station in life. It has been but recently built, and it embodies in its construction everything that is consistent with elegance, taste and comfort.

HIS SPLENDID WIFE.

In the year of 1886 it was the good fortune of Mr. Morgan to woo and win for life's partnership Miss Rena Carmichael, who has proved to be one of the greatest blessings of his life. His estimable wife is highly esteemed for her domestic virtues, and she is a perfect helpmeet for her husband. She is highly intelligent, economical and industrious, and she is the responsible manager of the affairs of her husband when he is away from home in the performance of his public duties. For several years she has faithfully looked after her husband's interests and demonstrated to the world the capacity of women in business affairs. Whatever may be the worldly accumulation of Mr. Morgan, his greatest earthly treasure must ever be his energetic, faithful and devoted wife, who in sickness and in health, in prosperity and in adversity, has ministered to his necessities, managed his vast interests and prepared him for the realization of his present position of influence and honor. Too much praise and honor can not be bestowed upon Mrs. Morgan, for she is made of the material of which great women and heroines are made.

ADDENDA.

Mr. Morgan is a kind, courteous, affable gentleman; he is easy of approach and in thorough accord with the best traditions and ideals of the race. He is not a weakling in any department of life, but, on the contrary, he is a strong man in the church, a general favorite in fraternal circles, and a positive factor in business life. He is a progressive man, and is not afraid to take hold of any proposition that is conceived and fostered for the interest and welfare of his race. He is one of the strong pillars of the Baptist Church and a man of influence in social life in general. He is a man that is capable of achieving the greatest success in most of the

avenues of life, and it is the unqualified opinion of those that know him that he will successfully pilot the old Masonic ship safe to the opposite shore. The Masonic fraternity honored itself and the



MRS. W. A. J. MORGAN AND RESIDENCE

whole State of Mississippi when it elevated to its leadership that prince of affable, kindly and progressive gentlemen, Grand Master W. A. J. Morgan, of Shelby, Mississippi.



Prof. W. J. Nickerson, New Orleans, La.

PRINCIPAL OF THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT OF SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY.



MUSIC is called the divine art, and its sweetness has appealed to the minds and hearts of the human race in all periods of the world's history. This being the case, fortunate indeed is that man who has succeeded in building up in his community the true musical spirit and dedicating it to the welfare and happiness of his fellow citizens. Probably the best known and most popular musician in the city of New Orleans, La., and the one that has done most to systematize and popularize the study of music among the best classes of his fellow townsmen is that splendid teacher, arranger and violinist, Prof. W. J. Nickerson.

HIS BIRTHPLACE.

The subject of this sketch is a native of the city of New Orleans, La., and has resided there all of his life. He is thoroughly conversant with the history and traditions of the Crescent City, and contributed much to its development along musical and social lines.

HIS EDUCATION.

Prof. Nickerson received his elementary training in the city schools of New Orleans, and his academic education at Straight University, of the same city. At an early age he took up the study of music under some of the most capable instructors in the city of New Orleans; he also took a course of instructions under one of the celebrated teachers from the Conservatory of Paris, France.

OUT IN LIFE.

After the subject had completed his literary course, he sought employment in one of the music stores of his city for the purpose of learning the art of piano tuning. In perfecting himself in this art he remained in the business for several years, and finally began to teach the art of music. In the year of 1891 he was appointed to the head of the music department of Southern University, New Orleans, La., and has filled with credit this honorable position ever since.

HIS FAMOUS YOUNG LADIES' ORCHESTRA.

In the year of 1895, Prof. Nickerson organized the Young Ladies' Orchestra of New Orleans, and thus created for the music loving public of his native city one of its greatest attractions. He carried his famous orchestra to the North, and played a highly successful engagement to unprecedented audiences in Chicago, Ill. His experience in the North was similar to a continuous ovation. The professor carried his orchestra to the Young Peoples' Congress at Atlanta, Ga., and his experience there was but a repetition of his former experience in the North.

A SUCCESSFUL TEACHER.

Prof. Nickerson is a successful teacher of orchestra, piano and vocal music. His success in training youth has been unusual. He is a violinist of ability, but his public exhibitions now are rare. He prefers to shine through the excellence of his pupils, of whom he has a host to make his worthy name enduring. He has made the city of his nativity a vast conservatory of gifted pupils, whose excellence will perpetuate his memory and cause him to be considered one of the greatest benefactors to the race.

A MUSICAL FAMILY.

It is but natural that every member of the professor's family should be a devotee at the shrine of the divine art of music. Miss Camille L. Nickerson, his estimable daughter, is a first-class accom-

panist, and she has had the honor of accompanying most of the prima donnas and other artists that have visited the city of New Orleans in late years. She has accompanied the gifted Madam Hackley, Madam Aneta Patti Brown, Prof. Joseph H. Douglass and Prof. Cameron White. She studied music under her father, and for some time under the instruction of a professor from the Conservatory of Paris, France. With the realization of the dream of her life to win a diploma of graduation from the Boston Conservatory of Music, the world will hear a great deal more about the splendid ability of this talented and worthy young woman.

HIS LAMENTED WIFE.

The departed companion of Prof. Nickerson was, before her marriage, a Miss Julia Ellen Lewis, the talented and accomplished daughter of Col. James Lewis of New Orleans, who was at one time Surveyor of the Port of New Orleans. She was a pianist, a violinist, a cellist and arranger of music, and she was of invaluable assistance to her husband in his musical work.

CONCLUSION.

The life of Prof. Nickerson has been one of ceaseless activity. He is a pleasant and congenial citizen, and just the type of manhood that can dignify music and put it upon that pedestal on which it belongs. He is a man of modesty, notwithstanding the fact that he is the premier music teacher in the city of New Orleans. It is a pleasure to the writer to bestow this humble testimonial upon the excellence of Prof. Nickerson, both as a first-class man and citizen.



Prof. J. T. Strong, Itta Bena, Miss.

PRINCIPAL OF ITTA BENA COLORED GRADED SCHOOL AND SECRETARY-TREASURER OF THE I. O. I. BENEFIT ASSOCIATION.



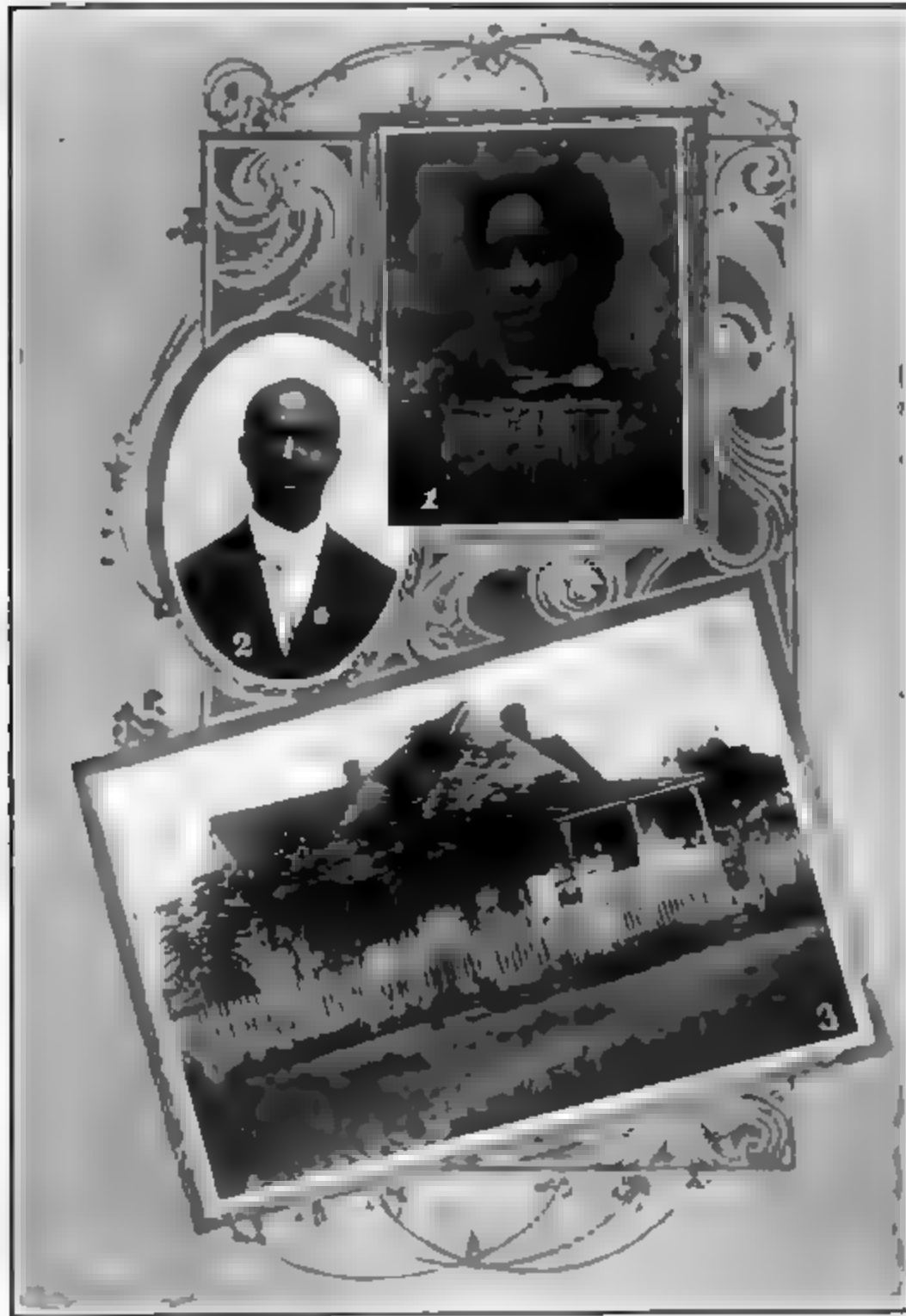
TO BE a man that is useful and serviceable to his race, his country and the cause of humanity, is far better than to be considered a great man, for it has long since passed into the domain of proverbs that it is better to be a good man than to be a great man. In the honored subject of this sketch there is presented to the race in this Southland a serviceable man, a useful man, a good man, and in many respects a great man. He has been tried in the crucible of service for his people, and his fidelity to the interests of his race has ever been as true as the needle to the pole.

HIS NATIVITY AND PARENTAGE.

The worthy subject of this sketch is a native of the State of Mississippi and was born near Columbus, May 16, 1866, a full year after the Civil War. His mother and father, Peyton Strong and Mrs. Jennie Strong, were slaves in ante-bellum times, and suffered the same fate that thousands of others of the race suffered as a consequence of slavery. They had not the blessings of education, but they did have an instinctive idea of its benefits, and they worked hard to earn money with which to educate their children. His parents had many of the qualities that always command success. They worked unceasingly, practiced economy and thrift, and always had something to show for their labors. The son inherited many of the admirable traits of his parents, for he has well used the days of his life and has succeeded in accumulating a generous supply of the goods of this world.

HIS EDUCATION.

His rudimentary education was received in the public schools of Monroe and Panola Counties. Having attended the common schools of his native State until he had reached his sixteenth year, he was sent to Rust University, Holly Springs, Miss., in the year of 1882, and remained a student in the classic walls of that institution for four years. His health having become impaired, he was physically unable to continue in college for the purpose of completing the regular classical course. He had to continue his studies in the great university of the outside world and win his diploma of proficiency therein. His literary training at Rust University prepared him to



PROF. AND MRS. J. T. STRONG
RESIDENCE OF PROF. AND MRS. STRONG, ITTA BENA, MISS.

serve effectively the interests of his race, and he went forthwith out into the battles of life to fight his way to success and honor.

HIS CAREER AS A SCHOOLMASTER.

Prof. Strong began his career in the teachers' profession in Panola County in the year of 1882, when he was a youth of sixteen years. For nearly thirty years he has faithfully served his people and has been a source of inspiration to thousands of young men and young women of the race to strive to make of themselves that which would be a credit and honor to themselves and the race. For nearly a generation he has been one of the most prominent public school teachers in the State of Mississippi. For four years he was principal of the Greenwood Colored Graded School and for thirteen years or more he has creditably filled his present position at the head of the Itta Bena Colored Graded School.

PROMINENT IN RELIGIOUS CIRCLES.

He is a faithful and ardent member of the Methodist Episcopal Church and prominently connected with the work of the Epworth League. He is President of the Epworth League of the Greenville District of the Upper Mississippi Conference. He had the honor of being a member of the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, which met in the city of Baltimore, Md., in 1908.

SECRETARY-TREASURER OF THE I. O. I. BENEFIT ASSOCIATION.

Prof. Strong is one of the leading fraternity men of the State of Mississippi, and stands high in the confidence and esteem of the Independent Order of Immaculates. In the year of 1908 he was elected Secretary-Treasurer of the I. O. I. Benefit Association, and in the year of 1910 he was re-elected to the same office for a period of four years, or until 1914. As Treasurer of this growing organization he collects about \$3,000 quarterly for its benefit fund.

A SUCCESSFUL BUSINESS MAN.

Prof. Strong has made an enviable name, not only in the teachers' profession, but in the arena of business life. He combines the careful, painstaking, devoted teacher with the progressive and aggressive business man. He has the faculty of making money and prospering when many others are bewailing the fates because of hard times. He is an experienced real estate dealer and speculator and is thus regarded as an authority in land investments. He is one of the substantial property owners of his town. In addition to his own elegant residence, he owns seven other houses and lots.

He is a man that is in comfortable circumstances and is rated as one of the wealthiest men of the race in his home community.

HIS ENERGETIC AND DEVOTED WIFE.

The subject of this sketch has succeeded in everything that he has ever undertaken, but one of the greatest successes of his life was when he was so fortunate as to win the heart and hand of his devoted and faithful wife. She was a Miss Elizabeth Whitehead, of Greenwood, Mississippi, and was educated in the schools of Greenwood. To the fond parents was born a bright son, with seemingly a brilliant future. This brilliant young man first graduated at Rust University and subsequently decided to be a physician, but it was not the will of benign Providence to permit that life to realize its ambition, for the grim Reaper carried this son to his reward August 28, 1909.

Mrs. Strong is Grand Permanent Scribe of the I. O. I. and also Most Noble Governess of the Household of Ruth, No. 3931, of Itta Bena, Miss. She is an earnest worker in the uplift of her people and a great assistance to her husband in his onerous duties as Treasurer, real estate dealer and general, all-round business man.

HE ENJOYS UNIVERSAL ESTEEM.

Very few men have so firm a place in the esteem, appreciation and honor of their fellow citizens, irrespective of race, as has the subject of this sketch. Whites and blacks alike proclaim him to be an ideal citizen. He is a shrewd business man and an enterprising hustler. He has the happy faculty of making and retaining friends, and thus constantly adding to their number. In any application of the term, Prof. Strong is an able, high-class representative of the race. His standing among his people is unimpeachable and he is looked upon with appreciation and favor by all the people of his community, without regard to race. In all the elements of progress he is considered one of the very first citizens of Itta Bena, and he has the good sense to endeavor to deserve the best from all his fellow citizens. He has achieved great things in the estimation of the members of his race, and the hope of his friends is that he will continue in his laudable ways until he attains to the pinnacle of race success.

A. J. Oakes, Yazoo City, Miss.

BUILDING CONTRACTOR AND PROPRIETOR OF OAKES LUMBER YARD.



T SOMETIMES happens that the very name of a man is suggestive of his life and synonymous of his character. Such, indeed is the case in the life and character of the worthy and eminently successful man whose life story is portrayed in this narrative, for in a figurative sense he is a veritable gigantic oak, whose deep roots have defied the storms of half a century, penetrated the soil of service and usefulness to his race, and gained for him lasting appreciation, unusual honor and great wealth.

HIS NATIVITY AND PARENTS.

The subject of this sketch, Prof. A. J. Oakes, is a native of the city in which he has risen to the first rank in influence, wealth and honor, and first beheld the light of day March 22, 1854. He was in many respects a fortunate youth, for his parents were energetic and thrifty, and possessed all those virtues of character which are at the foundation of successful achievement in American life. His parents, John and Mary Oakes, were born in Columbia, S. C. His father was free from birth and thus enjoyed privileges and opportunities that would have been impossible otherwise. He was a mechanic in the early days, and he taught his son the trade in which he is such a leading factor in the contracting world. The dear mother of the subject was an exceptional woman, and had all of the virtues of the Roman matron of old. She not only worked hard and unremittingly to purchase her own time from her master, but she succeeded in purchasing the time of her children at the rate of twenty dollars per month by washing, ironing and running a boarding house. Her extraordinary energy and determination were transmitted to her son, for he has worked hard, struggled and succeeded as have very few men of the race in any section of this country.

THE STORY OF HIS EDUCATION.

The student career of Prof. Oakes is of absorbing interest and worthy of the most careful perusal. In the year of 1863, when he was a mere lad of tender years and when the shot and shell of mortal combat between the blue and the gray were falling thick and fast in the city of Vicksburg, Miss., he attended the high school in that city, and from the beginning he had the honor of leading his class. In the year of 1866 his parents moved back to Yazoo City



A. J. OAKES

and sent their son to a private school in that city until the year of 1870. In the year of 1870, when he was a lad of sixteen years, he successfully passed the examination for admission to the State Normal School at Holly Springs, Miss. Having been admitted as a student in the State institution, his splendid scholarship became so apparent to the faculty that he gained a year's credit in class work in the short period of three weeks' time, and as a result he was promoted to the most advanced class in the school. He completed both the regular and the optional course in the State Normal School June 4, 1874, and he thus had the honor of being one of the earliest graduates of a reputable institution of learning in the South.

HIS CAREER AS A SCHOOLMASTER.

The subject of this sketch had studied hard when a student, and had thoroughly prepared himself to serve his people. His education was to be devoted to the elevation and advancement of his benighted people, for those were indeed dark days that formed the first decade after the civil war. Having graduated at an unusually early period in the freedom of the race, it may be stated, without any probability of successful contradiction, that he was one of the pioneer educators of native birth and first-class education in the State of Mississippi. Emerging from the ravages and desolation of war, there was but little educated material among the colored people of the State of Mississippi in the early part of the 70's. At least there was but little education among the native born element of the colored population.

As soon as he had received his diploma of graduation from the State Normal School, he went home and announced his readiness for service as principal of a school. He went about securing a school in his characteristic manner. He wrote to seventy-five counties in the State for a position as principal of a school. In the course of time he received favorable replies from ten or more superintendents, but the prospects pleased him to accept the principalship of Green Hill High School, Sardis, Miss., which position paid him a salary of \$100.00 per month. Having served in that capacity for four years and demonstrated his ability to succeed in his chosen profession, Prof. Oakes was elected to the Principalship of the Yazoo City Graded School in the year of 1877, and successfully managed this school for seven years, or until his resignation in 1884.

After severing his relationship with the public schools of his native city, he founded and organized Oakes Academy, of which he was principal, and he served in that capacity for sixteen years, or until the year of 1900, when he voluntarily abandoned the teachers' profession, after nearly thirty years of devoted and consecrated service in the uplift of his people.

FROM SCHOOLMASTER TO LUMBER KING.

After quitting the school room, Prof. Oakes began his highly successful and spectacular career as a business man and contractor. In the days of his youth he had worked at the carpenter's trade under his father, and was well qualified to succeed along that line, so it was but natural that he should engage in general contracting, then in real estate ventures, and finally in the lumber business. As a first-class business man Prof. Oakes is one of the race's best examples of success. He was a pioneer, not only in the teachers' profession in his State, but in the lumber business as well. It is difficult for the average mind of the race to comprehend the magnitude of the lumber business that is carried on by Prof. Oakes, for it is hardly probable that such a plant can be duplicated in the ranks of the race in this whole country. He is the proprietor of one of the largest and one of the most complete lumber yards in the State of Mississippi. He employs expert and experienced lumber inspectors, whose assurance to the patronizing public is a guarantee that the output of the yard will be up to every first-class requirement of the builder's profession. The Oakes lumber yard carries a complete assortment of lumber for all purposes. It has in stock doors, sash, blinds, dressed flooring, mouldings, finished lumber and every variety of building material.

VALUE AND VOLUME OF HIS BUSINESS.

So far as the writer is informed, Prof. Oakes is the proprietor of the only mammoth lumber yard in this whole country. During the first year of his experience in the lumber business he did not have the pleasure and honor of selling a dollar's worth of lumber to members of the white race; but so business-like have been his dealings, and such a large and well assorted stock of lumber and building material does he carry, that two-thirds of his patronage is now from members of the dominant race. His plant is large and the estimated value of his stock of lumber from time to time is about \$35,000.00. In the course of a year the volume of business that is done by him will amount to \$60,000.00.

THE LEADING COLORED CONTRACTOR OF YAZOO CITY.

The subject of this sketch is the leading building contractor in Yazoo City. Among the many substantial buildings that he has constructed in his home city may be mentioned the Yazoo City Graded School for the colored people. This school building is perhaps the most elegant and most attractive one in the State of

Mississippi that is devoted to the education of the colored youth in the public school system. It is a modern, commodious structure, and was erected by Prof. Oakes at a total cost of \$15,000.00.

A POPULAR, CLEAN AND RELIABLE MAN.

The popularity of Prof. Oakes is general among all classes of both races in his community. From the early days of his career as a schoolmaster down to the present time he has been universally esteemed and honored as one of the cleanest, one of the most reliable and one of the most popular men in the ranks of the race. His business record in his home city is one of undeviating success, and his life among his fellow citizens has ever been one to be emulated by the youth of the race. He is a quiet, unpretentious gentleman in spite of the fact that he is one of the leading men of his race in the State of Mississippi.

A MERITED COMPLIMENT FROM EX-GOV. VARDAMAN.

Prof. Oakes is not a politician, nor has he ever had any aspirations along political lines. He has been content to work hard, save his money, attend strictly to his business and let the elusive and delusive game of politics severely alone. He believes that the Negro will become a great factor in the development of the South by taking no part in political agitation and strife, and by educating himself, accumulating property and acquiring a bank account. He believes that the Negro must concentrate his energies along material lines and eschew politics if he ever desires to get in possession of the great legacy that the salubrious climate and fertile soil of this Southland have bequeathed to him.

The following tribute to Prof. Oakes from the trenchant pen of ex-Governor Vardaman, and published in the governor's paper, tells its own story:

"Yazoo City furnished an incident, some days since, that should prove of interest. The city council offered for sale bonds in the amount of \$15,000 for the purpose of constructing a school building for the Negroes. When the bids for these bonds were opened it was found that A. J. Oakes, a Negro citizen of Yazoo County, had made the best bid. They were promptly awarded him. Oakes is said to be a hard-working Negro, who eschews politics, attends to his own business and has succeeded in gathering together a considerable supply of this world's goods. While this was taking place in the State of Mississippi, there was another bunch of Negroes, from the State, in Chicago, who were attempting to gain recognition from the Republican Convention. Mississippi needs more such

Negroes like Oakes and fewer of the other kind. The good Negro will always have a place."

HIS FAITHFUL AND DEVOTED WIFE.

The estimable and devoted wife of Prof. Oakes was formerly Miss Emma L. Johnson of Yazoo City. She attended Oakes Academy and finally completed her education at Tougaloo University. They were united in the holy bonds of wedlock in the year of 1900, and their married life has been ideal in its faithfulness and happiness. If Prof. Oakes, seemingly, in the last few years, has taken on new life and renewed business activity, it has been due to the inspiration and encouragement that he has ever received from his wife, who is in his presence all smiles and sunshine. She is a woman that is as talented as she is devoted to her husband's interests, and just the kind of wife that is needed to guarantee the continuance of his success. Three children are the happy fruits of their matrimonial union, Alma, Conrad and John.

HIS TWO TALENTED DAUGHTERS.

By the union with his first wife, who was a Miss A. A. Hendrix, of Uniontown, Ala., two daughters were born. One of the daughters, Mrs. Mary A. Saxton, of Chicago, Ill., is a graduate of Atlanta University, and at one time taught in the Yazoo City graded school. In the year of 1910 she abandoned the profession of teaching and was united in marriage to Mr. W. H. Saxton of Chicago, who is a clerk in the postoffice of that city. Miss Annie D. Oakes is also a graduate of Atlanta University, and is now a teacher in the public schools of LaGrange, Georgia. Both of them were given the advantages of the best educational training, and they are in every respect a monument to the devotion of their kind father and an ornament to the race.

THE WEALTHIEST COLORED CITIZEN OF YAZOO CITY.

Prof. Oakes is a modest, unassuming man, and would not think of voluntarily publishing his wealth to the world. It is a matter of record, however, that he is one of the largest property holders in Yazoo City. He owns a substantial brick store and some very valuable property on the principal street of the city. He also has a great deal of tenement property in many parts of the city. For years he has dealt extensively in real estate, and he has acquired holdings that amount to a great sum. He is a business man in such affluent circumstances that he is able "to pay as he goes." It

is believed by people who have fair judgment in such matters that Prof. Oakes is worth considerably more than \$100,000. He made his money in a legitimate manner. He improved his opportunities when times were more or less flourishing in the city of his nativity and he then laid the foundation of one of the largest personal fortunes in the ranks of the race in the city of Mississippi.

A RACE LEADER.

Prof. Oakes makes no assumption of race leadership, but he undoubtedly is one of the race's most progressive men. He does not believe in political activity on the part of the race, for he thinks that the colored man has everything to lose when he persists in exercising his political rights in an ostentatious manner. He believes that in the peaceful pursuits of labor and away from the strife and turmoil of politics lies the future welfare of the Negro. Prof. Oakes represents the conservative element of the race, and his great success in every field of activity in which he has ever been engaged demonstrates the wisdom of his views on the question that is so fraught with significance for all the people of this sunny Southland, white and black alike.





Victor P. Thomas, New Orleans, La.

CUSTOMS SERVICE.

THE well-known and popular subject of this sketch was born in the parish of Ascension, in the State of Louisiana, on February 14, 1868. His revered mother, whose maiden name was Mathilde Brierre, was at an early age united in marriage to Alcide Thomas, whose ancestors were natives of the island of St. Domingo. Contrary to the usual order of things in those days, the father and mother of the subject had the honor of being married in the Catholic church of Donaldsonville, La., and the nuptial knot was tied with ceremonies befitting such a solemn occasion. The result of this union was twelve children, equally divided as to sex, Mr. Thomas being the fourth link in the family chain.

HIS EDUCATION.

The first school attended by the subject was a private school taught by the daughter of a white planter in the youth's neighborhood. While attending this school he wrote his first letter to his mother, in order for her to see how nicely he was progressing. His mother carefully treasured this letter, kept it until he was grown, and returned it to him with the cherished hope that he would thus use his talent for some worthy purpose throughout his life, an admonition which he has endeavored to keep sacred to this day.

It was not the happy privilege of Mr. Thomas to enjoy the splendid educational advantages which so many thousands of young people nowadays enjoy, for the actual work of the subject in the school room as a pupil came to a close when he was in his fourteenth year. The impairment of the health of his father made it necessary for him to quit school and make his own way as best he could; but it did not mean that the youth would have to give up the ambition to store his mind with knowledge. Having secured employment with a wealthy planter, a new vista of possibility for the cultivation of his mind was opened up to him, for the planter's kindly wife took a personal interest in his efforts to educate himself, provided him with books suitable for his needs, and instructed him along many lines that were not clear to his understanding. While it was true that he could not attend school, yet he could at his own home have a school of his own. For several years he diligently and unceasingly read, thought, experimented and trained his powers of mind, inspired by the encouragement and devotion of his dear mother, who was ever the refuge of his youth and the consolation of his maturer years.

IN THE TEACHERS' PROFESSION.

In the year of 1881 Mr. Thomas was advised and encouraged by an old friend to take the examination and apply for appointment to fill a vacancy which had just occurred in the public school of his town. He was successful and was appointed to the position. He remained in the school system without further examination until the year of 1885, whereupon the entire teaching force was required by the powers that were to undergo a re-examination. In this general examination Mr. Thomas made the highly creditable average of 97.85 per cent., which was one of the best in the records of the examining board. The highly satisfactory work that was done in the school room by him for so many years so favorably impressed the school board that he was promoted to the principalship of Don-

aldsonville Academy, the high school of the parish for colored children, where he remained for more than ten years, or until 1903.

A GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE.

In the year of 1900 Mr. Thomas served as census enumerator, and at the conclusion of his work he was highly complimented by the census supervisor for his efficiency in the service. At one time he was a deputy collector of internal revenue, and served in the sugar branch of that department as weigher and sampler until that branch was closed. His services were of such a character as to merit his receiving generous praise from the collector of internal revenue.

In the year of 1903 Mr. Thomas resigned his position in the schools of Donaldsonville for the purpose of entering the service of the United States government. He accepted a position in the customs service tendered to him by Hon. Henry McCall, Collector of the Port of New Orleans, La. His first position was merely an appointive one, but in a few months after his first assignment he took the civil service examination and had the honor of passing the most creditable examination at that time, and he far surpassed in ability many college-bred applicants of both races, who presented themselves on that occasion to undergo the same test. Mr. Thomas has worked his way up to that of first grade employe in the customs service, and he has the reputation of being one of the most capable men in the service.

A VETERAN NEWSPAPER CORRESPONDENT.

For more than twenty years Mr. Thomas has been engaged in newspaper work, but mainly as a side line. He has served on the staff of several of the most widely known newspapers of the race, and has made a reputation that is nation wide for his fearlessness in defending the interests of the race. His efforts in behalf of the race can not even be approximated, unless some of them be herein stated. It has been the lot of very few men to accomplish with the pen as much for the race as Mr. Thomas has accomplished. A few instances may be named in which his trenchant pen did great work for the welfare of the race:

(1) When there was a movement on foot to oust all of the colored teachers in the schools of New Orleans and replace them with white teachers, the masterly pen of Mr. Thomas opened the eyes of the thinking public to the injustice that would be done the colored race by such an act.

(2) When the legislature of the State of Louisiana was considering the advisability of removing Southern University from the city of New Orleans, the forceful arguments and facile pen of Mr. Thomas clarified the situation and helped to turn the tide in favor of justice and right affecting the interests and welfare of the race.

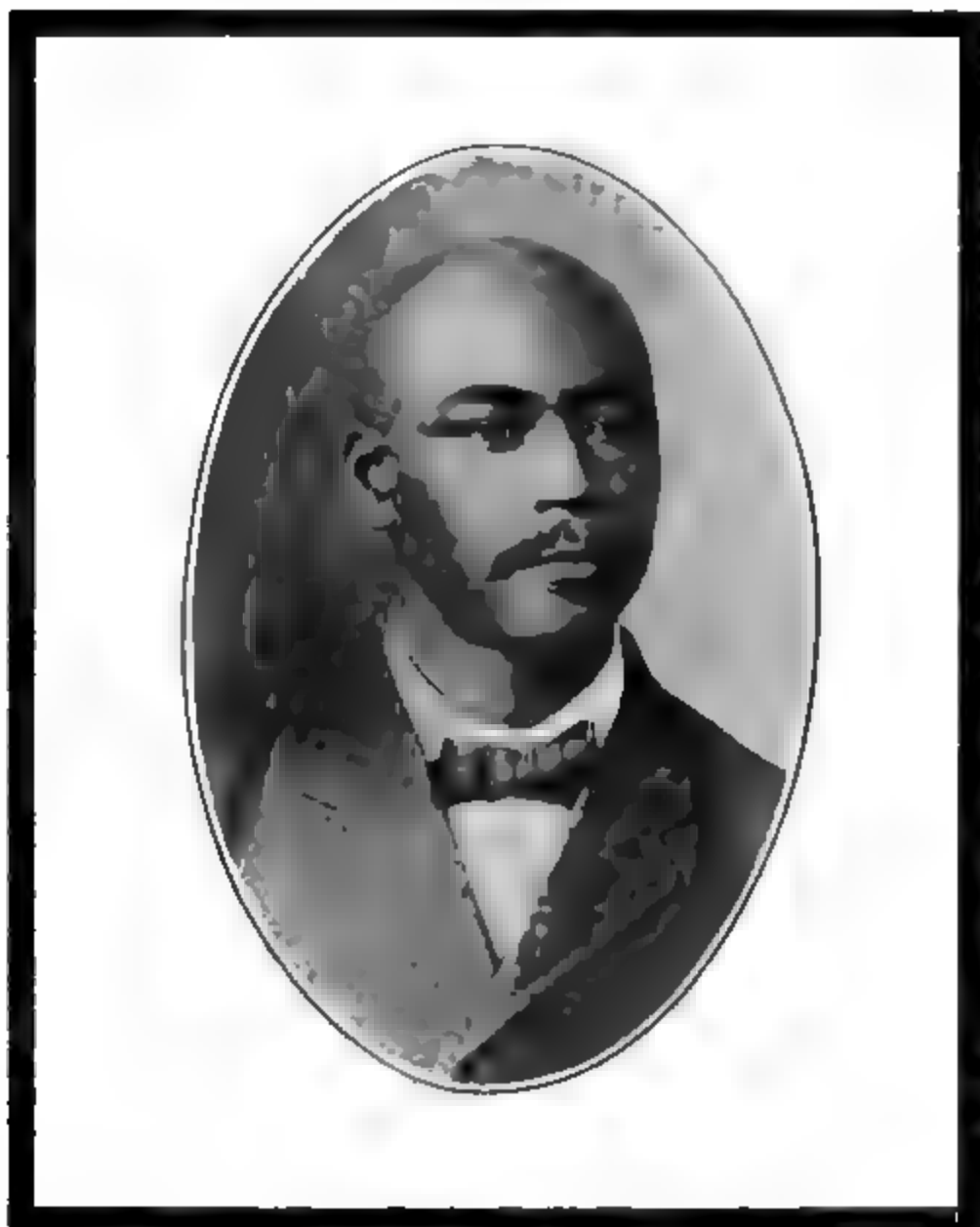
(3) He came to the rescue of the laboring classes of the race during the days when the movement to import white labor from Europe to supplant the Negroes of the South was in the throes of discussion. Mr. Thomas vigorously attacked the movement, and even wrote to the governor of the State of Louisiana, calling his attention to the great wrong which seemed about to be inflicted upon his race. The reply of Governor Blanchard to the letter of Mr. Thomas was in keeping with the high mind and patriotic feelings of the governor, who gave Mr. Thomas assurance of his kindly interest in the matter and his promise to conserve the public welfare. The kind governor kept his word, and thus stayed the hand of acrimonious discussion and probable violence to the race.

HIS DEVOTED COMPANION.

In the year of 1886 Mr. Thomas achieved the most substantial success of his career when he won the hand, heart and life companionship of Miss Mary Carmelite Emsley, to whom he was united in marriage in the Jesuit Catholic Church, Barronne street, New Orleans, La. The issue of their marriage has been twelve children, of whom seven are still living. Mr. Thomas comes of prolific stock and his record must ring true to the paternal name. His estimable companion is one of the most faithful and one of the most resourceful women of the race, and she has done her full duty to her dear children and devoted husband.

CONCLUSION.

Mr. Thomas is one of the brightest examples of success. He is in its broadest sense a self-made man, and has builded for himself a monument loftier and more enduring than thousands of college graduates ever could have done. He is not only reasonably fixed as to the goods of this world, but he is as rich as a Croesus in the appreciation and gratitude of his people. He is a thinker and a writer of ability and, better than these, he is a man upon whom any one may rely without disappointment. His promise is just as good as a gold coin fresh from the mint, and he is in many ways one of the most capable, most faithful and most reliable men that the writer has ever had the pleasure of meeting.



JOHN W. STRAUTHER (DECEASED)

John W. Strauther (Deceased), Greenville, Miss.

PRESIDENT OF DELTA PENNY SAVINGS BANK AND GRAND MASTER
OF THE EXCHEQUER OF THE KNIGHTS OF
PYTHIAS OF MISSISSIPPI.



THE Fourth of July, 1867, was noted not only as the natal day of free, enlightened and glorious America, but from the standpoint of the colored people of the State of Mississippi, who delight to cherish and honor his memory; this same historic day was made memorable by the birth of John W. Strauther, a member of the race, and one whose name and fame will ever shine with stellar brightness on the pages of the race's history. He was the prince of business men, a great financier, a wise and far-sighted leader, and the most beloved man in the ranks of the race in the State of Mississippi.

HIS EDUCATION.

The lamented subject of this sketch was a man of the greatest intelligence, and in the domain of natural ability he was nearly peerless in the ranks of the race. Though he was fortunate enough to acquire a common school education in the schools of his native county, yet he was in the strict application of the term a self-made man. He was a man of such great natural endowment that in a State that is noted for the intellectual pre-eminence of its colored citizens, he was in the front rank of leadership, and if he had been honored with diplomas from any of the leading colleges and universities of the land, he could not have held a more exalted place in the respect, esteem and honor of his countrymen, who idolized his personality in life and now revere his memory in death.

OUT IN LIFE EARLY TO STRUGGLE.

Early in life the subject of this sketch was thrown upon his own resources to fight the battles of life, and how well he succeeded in the conflict is a source of pride and gratification to the entire race.

Whether enduring the burning heat of the brickyard, or portering in a store, or driving a delivery wagon, or hauling cotton to the compress, or serving as shipping clerk in a large wholesale grocery, he did his work to the best of his ability, and with complete fidelity to the interests of those whom he served. He was not ashamed to do any kind of work that was honorable, and the foundation of his success in after life was laid in the thoroughness with which he looked after the little things in his early life.

LITTLE BY LITTLE CLIMBING HIGHER.

Having saved some money by working hard in various capacities, in the year of 1888 he began his career as a business man by entering the grocery business. He had fair success in that venture, but the impairment of his health necessitated his closing out his business, which he did in the year of 1890. In the meantime he had already begun to operate a dray line in connection with his mercantile business. In the course of time his draying and transportation business had increased to such proportions that he had, practically, a monopoly of the public hauling that was done in the city of Greenville. For five years he hauled all the cotton and cotton seed from the river to the compress in the city of Greenville, and for ten years or more he had the largest transfer system in his home city and possibly the largest in the State that was exclusively operated by a colored man. In the operation of his mammoth transfer business he employed from time to time a dozen or more men. He was very successful in the transfer business, and accumulated sufficient capital to enable him to enter the undertaking business in the year of 1902.

THE LEADING UNDERTAKER IN GREENVILLE.

Having disposed of his transfer outfit of horses and wagons, he began in the business of undertaking March 1, 1902. He prospered in that business, and at the time of his death he was one of the leading undertakers in the State of Mississippi. His delivery equipment was as complete and as pretentious as the size of the city and the demands of its people would warrant. It consisted of three hearses, two carriages, one ambulance, one dead wagon, two runabouts and six horses. He was the most popular undertaker in the State, and did practically all the business of his race in the city of Greenville. He also had a good country patronage. He was

awarded the contract for burying the city and county paupers, and that contract was awarded to him in competition with undertakers of the dominant race. The last inventory of his undertaking establishment taken before his sad demise showed a total valuation of \$6,500, without any outstanding obligations. In the city of Greenville there never could have been a successful competitor of Mr. John W. Strauther in the undertaking business, for his equipment was complete and modern, and his popularity so universal that all competition would have been rendered futile.

THE LEADING FRATERNITY MAN OF HIS STATE.

GRAND TREASURER OF THE KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS OF MISSISSIPPI.

As the honored Grand Treasurer of the Knights of Pythias of the State of Mississippi, he received and disbursed for the order over \$100,000 annually. When he took charge of the finances of the order in the year of 1898, the indebtedness of the fraternity to widows and orphans was nearly \$17,500, and there was not a dollar in the treasury to apply to the redemption of the pledges of the order. Since that fateful day in the fraternity's life, the masterful administration of affairs by the Treasurer enabled him to pay to the widows and orphans of the order upward of half a million dollars. In his report to the Grand Lodge, in its session at Yazoo City in the year of 1910, it was shown that there was a balance of more than \$48,000 in the endowment treasury and that the reserve fund had in its coffers the sum of \$11,000. When he began his official connection with the fraternity in the year of 1898, it had less than fifty lodges in the State and less than 1,000 members, but so phenomenal has been the growth of the order that at the time of his death it had six hundred lodges and over 16,500 members. When he took charge of the finances of the order its endowment policy was only \$300, but it now is \$600.

SUPREME VICE CHANCELLOR OF THE KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS.

In the month of June, 1908, the lamented subject of this sketch was appointed Supreme Vice Chancellor of the Knights of Pythias, and was elected to that exalted position at the biennial meeting of the order in Kansas City, Mo., in 1909. That position made him the official head of the Women's Department of Supreme Lodge of Knights of Pythias of the World.

SUPREME TREASURER OF KNIGHTS AND LADIES OF THE TEMPLE OF AMERICA.

He was Supreme Treasurer of the Knights and Daughters of the Temple of America, a fraternity which was organized in the year of 1904. This fraternity has about 2,500 members and operates in the State of Mississippi, Louisiana, Alabama and Arkansas. He was elevated to the position of Treasurer in the year of 1908. His first report showed collections and disbursements amounting to about \$1,000 at the expiration of the first year of his incumbency. His last report, July 26, 1910, showed a total of \$5,000 collected and disbursed for the order. It is a young and growing order, and seems destined to succeed in its sphere of beneficence to its members.

MANAGER OF THE BLADE, OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS OF MISSISSIPPI.

In connection with his many other responsible duties, both in business and fraternal life, he was the manager of the Blade, which is the official organ of the Knights of Pythias of the State of Mississippi. It is a well edited publication, and is potential in all matters relating to the craft in the State. It has a circulation of over 1,000.

PROMINENT IN RELIGIOUS CIRCLES.

Notwithstanding the multiplicity of his duties in the other walks of life, the subject of this sketch never neglected his religious obligations, the faithful performance of which was the source of all of his earthly prosperity. To fear God, inherit the earth and the fullness thereof, has ever been the reward of those who live close to the Master. He was very prominent in religious life, and for many years he was a member of the Board of Deacons of Mt. Horeb Missionary Baptist Church, Greenville, Miss.

PRESIDENT OF THE DELTA SAVINGS BANK.

That he was one of the kings in the world of business is demonstrated by the fact that he was financially connected with nearly every great business enterprise of the race in the State of Mississippi. There was hardly a business enterprise of any magnitude

whose promoters did not seek the membership and co-operation of Mr. John W. Strauther, of Greenville, Miss. He was President of the Delta Savings Bank of Greenville, Miss., a financial institution that was organized in the year of 1907 with a capital of \$25,000. This bank is one of the solid financial institutions of the State, and is an enduring monument to the wise leadership and financial resources of that great and good man, whose every effort was devoted to the bank's welfare and success.

A STOCKHOLDER IN A MULTITUDE OF RACE ENTERPRISES.

In addition to his substantial stock holdings in the Delta Savings Bank, he was a stockholder of the Solvent Savings Bank & Trust Company, of Memphis, Tenn. He was a stockholder of the Bank of Mound Bayou, Mound Bayou, Miss. He was a stockholder of the Mound Bayou Oil Mill Manufacturing Company. He was a director of the Mississippi Beneficial Life Insurance Company, the greatest organization of its character in the world. He was Secretary of the Union Guaranty Insurance Company of Mississippi, a bonding and life insurance company that was organized in 1910 and incorporated with a capital of \$50,000. He was President and Manager of the Queen City Realty Company of Greenville, Miss., a great real estate corporation that was capitalized at \$25,000. Its object was the purchase of large tracts of land and the building thereon of homes which might be purchased by patrons on such easy terms that the payments might seem like rent. He was a director of the Co-Operative Mercantile Company of Greenville, Miss., one of the largest mercantile companies of the race in the delta. It is incorporated and capitalized at \$10,000.

A LARGE PROPERTY HOLDER.

Not only was the lamented subject financially interested in every race enterprise of note in the State of Mississippi, but he was also one of the most substantial owners of city property in the State. He owned about twelve pieces of property in the city of Greenville, Miss., among which may be mentioned the John W. Strauther building, a splendid two-story brick office building, located on the most prominent business street in the city. He also owned valuable lots in Oklahoma.

HIS ESTIMABLE AND DEVOTED WIDOW.

Back of every successful man there is some good and devoted woman, either faithful wife or devoted mother, and this was espe-

cially true in the case of the highly successful man who has so recently been taken from the walks of man to his reward. January 16, 1889, the lamented husband was joined in the holy bonds of matrimony to Miss Sarah Anderson, of Vicksburg, Miss. She gained the main part of her education in the city of Vicksburg, and she is considered and known as a woman of refinement and culture and real worth. For over twenty-one years this faithful and devoted wife counselled, toiled and struggled with her husband up the hill to final success and fortune. If the lamented and beloved man of the people owed his success in life to any mortal being, it was to his faithful wife, who took hold of the reins of responsibility and duty at the very beginning of his career as an ambitious, struggling young man, was faithful to his interests, worked unceasingly for him and strove in every legitimate and honorable way for his success. The subject confided to the writer his belief that the lamented subject had as good a wife as there was in the whole wide world, and the earnest and manly manner in which he spoke those sentiments was positive proof to the writer that the subject meant every word. Mrs. John W. Strauther is a woman of good, sound, business sense and judgment. Her long association in business with her deceased husband made her no novice in business affairs, and she is well able to care for herself in any business proposition. Having succeeded to the ownership and management of the vast interests that were bequeathed to her by her lamented husband, her superior intelligence and long experience in business matters make her thoroughly capable of safeguarding her interests, and it is not mere speculation to predict that her success as a business woman will be quite as pronounced as that of her distinguished husband. Mrs. Strauther is liberal and generous, and has many of those identical qualities that made her husband the most beloved man in the State of Mississippi.

AN ESTIMATE OF HIS CHARACTER.

In many respects the subject was an extraordinary man. Undoubtedly he was one of the most successful men that the race ever produced in the State of Mississippi. His patrimony was neither a silver spoon nor even a pewter spoon, for by his own invincible determination and efforts he rose to the pinnacle of success. He was really an able man, with versatile qualification. He had the happy faculty of succeeding in everything that he attempted. He was universally popular, and there was no honor in the gift of his race in the State of Mississippi which would not have been freely conferred upon him for the mere asking. It is the candid opinion

of many that the subject of this sketch was the most popular man in the State of Mississippi. There was something in his personality that endeared and cemented him to everybody with whom he came in contact. His friends were legion and treasured his friendship as one of their most priceless possessions. Among the able men of his State he was the ablest in natural ability. Among the wealthy he was one of the wealthiest. Among the honored he was the most honored, and among the beloved he was the most beloved. There will never be his like among the people of the State of Mississippi again, for it has been the wisdom of Providence never to create two beings in the universe exactly alike. He was a man that commanded the respect, esteem and admiration of the white race to the same extent that he did the people of his own race. He was a man among men, irrespective of race, and the race suffered irreparable loss when it pleased the Almighty Father to summon him to his reward. May peace be to his ashes.





J. O. DIFFAY.

J. O. Diffay, Birmingham, Ala.

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT OF ALABAMA PENNY SAVINGS BANK—DEALER
IN REAL ESTATE AND PROPRIETOR OF THE FINEST TON-
SORIAL PARLOR IN THE SOUTH.



ONE of the best known, most highly respected and most enterprising citizens of Birmingham, Ala., is Mr. J. O. Diffay, who is a member of the race, notwithstanding the French flavor of his name, and who has done much that redounds to the credit and honor of the race. He has a claim second to none on the best wishes and esteem of the citizens of Birmingham, for he was born in the city's corporate limits and has resided therein for the entire period of his life. He was ushered into this mortal existence March 22, 1862, and was the son of parents who, in addition to their farm land possessions, were rich in the goods of this world to the extent of fifteen children.

HIS EDUCATION.

In comparison with the splendid educational advantages that are in reach of nearly every colored boy of the present day, Mr. Diffay's opportunities for acquiring an education were very limited. He enjoyed only such meager advantages as were provided in the primitive district schools in the early days of Birmingham. He never attended school for more than three months at one time, and the result was that he had to get a sort of hop-skip-and-jump education until he had advanced to the intermediate grades. Conscious of his lack of educational advantages in his youth, Mr. Diffay has striven to make up those disadvantages by constant reading. He is an inveterate reader of newspapers, magazines and literary periodicals, and in this praiseworthy manner, combined with constant association with educated people, he has been rounded into a man of the highest intelligence.

HIS EARLY STRUGGLES TO SUCCEED.

The subject of this sketch spent the first sixteen years of his life on the farm, but from his sixteenth birthday until he was twenty-five years old he worked as a general, all-round genius, and made an attempt at nearly everything from public work to the business of digging wells and selling books. At the age of twenty-one he was married to Miss Hattie Roebuck, a young woman from one of the oldest and best families of the city. From this union three chil-

dren were born. In 1898 Mrs. Diffay died, leaving her husband and three small children. At the age of twenty-five he went into the produce business with a capital of seventy-five dollars, but this first business venture ended in abject failure. Undaunted by his first experience, he took up a new buckle in his belt and launched out in the fruit and confection business. According to his light, he had done his best, but the result was but a repetition of his first experience and he made an assignment in the course of six months. Now, there is an old saying that some people can be fooled all the time, but Mr. Diffay's name was not enrolled in that immortal number. Having twice failed in business, he decided to quit the marts of speculation and take up a reasonably sure proposition. He established himself in the tonsorial business with only two chairs, and in the course of two years he had thriven so well that he was able to liquidate to the last penny the seven hundred dollars of indebtedness for which he was morally responsible as the result of his second business failure.

A DEALER IN REAL ESTATE.

In the year of 1888 Mr. Diffay, who had become one of the most skillful artists in his line in the city of Birmingham, discontinued active work in the shop and entered the business of real estate, in which he has been constantly engaged to this time, with the exception of three years' service in the department of the United States government. He is one of the oldest and one of the most successful real estate men of color in the Magic City of the South, and his expert knowledge of realty in his home city is on parity with the best in the business.

A LEADER IN BUSINESS ENTERPRISES.

In a business way, Mr. Diffay is one of the most enterprising men that the city of Birmingham has ever produced. He has been connected more or less with every colored business of consequence that has been operated in the city of Birmingham for the past score of years. He is one of the original organizers of the Alabama Penny Savings Bank, the pioneer banking institution of the race in the city of Birmingham, and he is the honored First Vice-President of the same. With the exception of one year, he has been a member of the board of directors of the Penny Savings Bank since the day of its organization. He is an active, potential force in connection with this well-known counting house, and his name adds much to its financial solidarity. He was the first colored agent for an insurance company in the State of Alabama. He was one of the organizers of the People's Mutual Aid Association of Alabama, an industrial

insurance company of the race, and he has the honor of being its first President. He is a stockholder in the Jefferson County Land & Improvement Company of Birmingham, Ala.; he is a stockholder in the Red Bird Investment Company, of Red Bird, Okla.; he is a stockholder in the Weighing Wagon Company of Birmingham, and he is a heavy stockholder in a gasoline and air project that has been made possible by the genius of Mr. — — Crockett. He owns six lots in Kingfisher, Oklahoma Territory, and seven pieces of property in the city of Birmingham, Ala., in addition to the substantial interest he holds in the estate of his father. His home is in harmony with his extraordinary enterprise and general prosperity, and is an elegant, commodious and substantial two-story building, located in a very desirable section of the city.

THE FINEST TONSORIAL PARLOR IN THE SOUTH.

The declaration that Mr. J. O. Diffay has the most elegant tonsorial parlor for colored people that can be found in the entire South cannot be successfully contradicted. The writer has traveled from Kalamazoo to Timbuctoo, but he has never had the pleasure of seeing such a complete establishment as the one of which Mr. Diffay is the proprietor. This famous parlor was fitted up at an expenditure of \$8,000, and it is generally said to be the finest shop for colored people to be found in the United States. Its width is twice that of ordinary shops, and six chairs are on each side, making it one of the few twelve-chair shops in this country. In connection with the swell tonsorial parlors there are the following rooms: a reading room, containing the latest journals, magazines and other periodicals; a bath room, fitted up with conveniences for ordinary baths, shower baths, vapor baths and Turkish baths; a large and well furnished pool room, which affords amusement and pleasure to many of the best people of the city. The shop is steam heated and illuminated both with gas and electricity. Its sanitary condition is perfect, its tiled floor and marble basins enabling it to be washed out with a hose. Its chairs are white enameled, and the best that the market affords for the price. This palatial tonsorial parlor is a most significant evidence both of the progressive character of Mr. Diffay and his optimism for the rare.

HIS DEVOTED WIFE.

In the year of 1901, Mr. J. O. Diffay was united in marriage to Miss Rosa Bradford, of Birmingham, Ala. She is a graduate of the Birmingham public schools and Tuskegee Normal Institute. She was an experienced teacher, and taught in the schools of Ala-

bama and Oklahoma for several years. Four children have been the fruits of their union. Mrs. Rosa Diffay's devoted efforts and timely encouragement have entered very largely into the structure of her husband's success. She is a woman that is as resourceful as she is accomplished, and she is capable of contributing invaluable service to the success of her enterprising husband.

OF AN OPTIMISTIC TEMPERAMENT.

Mr. Diffay is an ideal example of race push and race energy, and for these two qualities the race is deeply obligated to him. He has spent both time and money in encouraging and fostering the business enterprises of the race. He has supreme confidence in the possibilities of the race, and is ever buoyant, optimistic and enthusiastic. To him there is no cloud so dark that it has no silver lining; so when many members of the race have been most dreary and doubtful of the race's future, Mr. Diffay has retained his cheerfulness and his confidence for the future of the race. If he were not a highly optimistic gentleman he would have been afraid to invest such a vast sum of money in such an enterprise. He is a progressive man to the very core. He believes in the possibilities of the race, and the race believes in Mr. Diffay, and the city of Birmingham, noted throughout the South for its progressiveness, would not be thus noted if it were not for the business enterprise, public spiritedness and unceasing optimism on the part of the subject of this sketch, Mr. J. O. Diffay.



Prof. W. E. Lew, Birmingham, Ala.

PRINCIPAL OF THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT OF MILES MEMORIAL
COLLEGE—A NATIVE SON OF MASSACHUSETTS.



PROF. WILLIAM EDWARD LEW, the well-known and talented musician, is a native son of the grand old Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and was born in what is now known as Pawtuckettsville, Lowell, Mass., July 1, 1865. His coming to these mundane shores was at a time when the fires of the Civil War were dying out and the angel of peace was just beginning to wing his flight over a re-united country, and the subject's youthful spirit seems to have absorbed the significance of the times in which he was born. for he is as ardent a lover of peace as he is of the "divine art" of which he is such a worthy exponent.

HIS ILLUSTRIOUS ANCESTRY.

If there be such a feeling as pride of ancestry, the subject of this sketch ought to be one of the proudest men on the American continent, for there are indeed few members of the Anglo-Saxon race in America that can trace their lineage more clearly back for nearly two centuries than this representative of the black race.

It is a matter of record that his ancestors fought in the old French and Indian wars, way back in Colonial times in America, and that they also distinguished themselves in the war for American independence. The Lew family was ever noted for its patriotic impulses, and its members carried their muskets shoulder to shoulder with the other patriots of the Revolutionary War against the common enemy.

For over one hundred and fifty years the Lew family of Massachusetts has been noted for its production of musicians. Way back in the times of the Colonial wars, the records show that the members of the Lew family were the musicians of the Massachusetts quota from the town of Groton; that they went from that town not only as soldiers in the Continental army, but as musicians as well. They played martial music and fought with muskets and bayonets at Saratoga under General Gates and at Brandywine under the brave and intrepid leadership of "Mad" Anthony Wayne and other commanders from the State of Massachusetts. After the Revolution they returned home and were noted as musicians throughout Essex and Middlesex counties in their native State. Thus, in peace and in war the ancestors of Prof. W. E. Lew gave their time and talents to the welfare and glory of their country.

HIS FATHER.

The father of the subject of this narrative, Mr. James A. Lew, is a musician of note, and for some time he held the honored position of chairman of the music committee of the Cambridge School Board. He was his gifted son's first instructor in music, and he laid for his son a substantial foundation on which to build a towering and enduring musical superstructure. The father is one of the prominent business men of the city of Boston, and a worthy progenitor of a talented and worthy son.

HIS MUSICAL TRAINING.

Having pursued the study of music for some time under his father, the subject was then put under the instruction of Mr. J. Albert Snow, of Charleston, Mass., under whom he graduated after

eight, years of diligent and unremitting application. He pursued further study of the piano at the Boston Conservatory of Music, and also under Mr. C. A. White, a grandson and graduate of Herr Listz, the greatest of all pianists. He studied the pipe organ and harmony with Mr. F. P. White, the organist of Trinity M. E. Church, Charleston, Mass. He studied harmony and chorus directing with Dr. R. H. Palmer of New York City, and Dr. W. H. Sherwin of the New England Conservatory of Music. He studied voice culture with Madame M. Hamilton Hodges and Mr. E. A. Woodward of the New England Conservatory of Music.

HIS PROFESSIONAL WORK IN THE NORTH.

For four years he served as organist of Union Baptist Church, Cambridge, Mass., and for two years he served in a similar capacity with Morning Star Baptist Church, Boston, Mass. For seven years he was the leading tenor at Trinity M. E. Church, Charleston, Mass., and for two years he served in the same capacity at St. Peter's P. E. Church, Cambridge, Mass. The last two were entirely white congregations.

IN THE SOUTH.

For several years Prof. Lew has been laboring in the South, and is secure in the reputation of being one of the most widely known and most capable instructors of music in the South. For three years he was at the head of the Music Department of Lane College, Jackson, Tennessee, and he is now at the head of the Music Department of Miles Memorial College, Birmingham, Ala. In his present position he is doing great things for Miles Memorial College, and the day is not distant when that splendid institution of learning will be as noted for its musical excellence as for its literary attainments.

HIS FORTE.

While Prof. Lew is by training and experience one of the most capable instructors to be found in this country, his forte is in the capacity of tenor soloist and accompanist. As a tenor soloist he is a star of the first magnitude, and will compare favorably with any of the high class artists of this country. His services for seven years as a tenor soloist in one of the leading white churches of the State of Massachusetts is ample proof of his superior attainments as a vocalist. As a teacher of music he is the personification of patience, and takes even more interest in the work of his constitutionally backward pupils than he does his brilliant ones. He has the faculty of getting results, and this is the highest compliment that can be given to any teacher.

HIS DEVOTED WIFE.

On August 1, 1894, Prof. Lew was united in marriage to Miss Mary Lave Owens, of East Boston, Mass. The nuptial knot was tied by Rev. F. M. Gardner, a Baptist minister, in whose family she had been reared. Mrs. Lew's devotion to the interests and welfare of her husband has had much to do with his success, and with her inspiration his possibilities in a musical way are unlimited. She is a woman of culture and refinement, and one whose aesthetic tastes are thoroughly in accord with those of her talented husband.

HIS POPULARITY.

Prof. Lew is a very popular man in musical and social circles. He has the peculiar faculty of making friends wherever he goes. He is a whole-souled, congenial, unaffected gentleman, notwithstanding his unusual talents and distinguished ancestry. While he takes some degree of pride in his ancestors, both on his paternal and maternal side, yet he realizes the fact that real worth must enter the composition of success. As a musician he is an ornament to his profession, and as a man he is an ornament to his race.

Dr. A. A. Cosey, Mound Bayou, Miss.

CHIEF GRAND MENTOR OF THE MISSISSIPPI JURISDICTION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL ORDER OF TWELVE, KNIGHTS AND DAUGHTERS
OF TABOR—CORRESPONDING SECRETARY OF THE NA-
TIONAL BAPTIST BENEFIT ASSOCIATION.



ONE of the best known, most progressive, most popular and most versatile men in the State of Mississippi, and one to whom his adopted State is deeply indebted for services rendered in behalf of the welfare and uplift of his race, is Dr. A. A. Cosey, of Mound Bayou, Miss. His strong personality as a race leader, his aggressiveness as a business man, his progressive ideas concerning citizenship, and his unbounded popularity both in ministerial and fraternal circles, give him an extraordinary power for good in the advancement and elevation of his race, to which he has dedicated the activities and best years of his useful life.

HIS BIRTHPLACE.

The popular subject of this sketch is a native of the State of Louisiana, and was born in Newellton, July 2, 1874. He was the issue of Elias and Jane Cosey, both of whom were parents of the old school of excellence and virtue, and strove to inculcate in the mind of their son all the cardinal virtues of character. His father was a native of the State of Louisiana, but his mother was a product of the proud old State of Kentucky, and no doubt transmitted to her son much of that hustling, aggressive and determined spirit which today forms the salient trait of his character. The doctor was reared on the farm, and was daily inured to its duties and hardships until he had acquired an education that enabled him to quit the farm and transfer his energies into other channels of activity.

HIS EDUCATION.

The early educational training of Dr. A. A. Cosey was in the public schools of his native community, but at the age of sixteen years the sphere of his educational activities was changed to Natchez College, Natchez, Mississippi, in which institution of learning he completed the academic course. While a student of Natchez College he partly maintained himself by engaging in the teachers' profession during his summer vacations; at the close of his student life at Natchez College he engaged actively in the profession of teaching



DR. A. A. COSBY

for six years in the State of Mississippi, and thus early laid the foundation of a useful and noble career in the uplift of his people.

A MINISTER OF THE GOSPEL.

In the year of 1890 he was converted and immediately united with the Stonewall Baptist Church at Newellton, Louisiana, in the pastorate of Rev. John Hicks. His conversion was the turning point in his career, for soon thereafter he obeyed the divine call to consecrate his life to the gospel ministry. With this call to duty uppermost in his mind, he began the systematic study of theology while a student of Natchez College. He was ordained in the gospel ministry by Rev. A. J. Bryant and Rev. John H. Hendricks at Newellton, La. He organized the Metropolitan Baptist Church at Clarksdale, Miss., and for eight years ministered with great success to the needs of that large congregation. He was for four years pastor of Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, Shelby, Miss., and for more than two years he was pastor of New Hope Baptist Church, Greenville, Miss. The last two pastorates were held in connection with other charges. He is now the beloved and honored pastor of Green Grove Baptist Church of Mound Bayou, Miss., and has served in his present capacity for the past five or more years.

GREEN GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH.

The growth of his present charge, both numerically and spiritually, has been highly gratifying to Dr. Cosey. His arduous and zealous labors in the cause of the moral, intellectual and spiritual advancement of his people have been rewarded with unusual success. His congregation is one of the largest and one of the most representative in the delta. It has a membership of over 600 souls, and the valuation of its church property is in excess of \$6,000. The Sunday School of this church is in a flourishing condition and all the working departments of the church are in active operation.

TRAITS AS A MINISTER.

The doctor is as progressive a preacher as he is a citizen. He does not divorce religion from the daily affairs of life, for he believes in the power of religion in the present life as well as in the life beyond the grave. He is called the "business preacher," because of the fact that he is actively engaged in the material affairs of life and has won success in the business world that would be a credit to any of the great captains of industry rather than to a minister of the gospel. He is strong in every department of minis-

terial service. He is a forceful and effective pulpit orator, a good pastor and a safe and conservative leader, and the magnitude of his following demonstrates the truth of this statement.

HIS HONORARY DEGREE.

That the reverend subject of this sketch has impressed his personality deeply upon the affections of the people of the State and upon their institutions, is evident to all who are acquainted with his high and influential standing with the Baptists of the State of Mississippi. As it has already been stated, Dr. Cosey studied theology while a student at Natchez College. His success as a minister of the gospel has been so great that his alma mater, Natchez College, as a faint testimonial of its appreciation of his services, conferred upon him the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity in 1905, an honor which he wears not only with becoming dignity, but with real merit.

HONORS FROM HIS DENOMINATION.

Very few ministers of the gospel have been more highly honored in an official way than has Dr. Cosey of Mound Bayou, Miss. Both the Baptists of his State and the Baptists of the whole nation have been pleased to confer honors upon him. He served as Corresponding Secretary of the General Missionary Baptist State Convention of Mississippi, and for several years he has been conspicuous in the official councils of the National Baptist Convention. In the year of 1905 he was elected Corresponding Secretary of the National Baptist Benefit Association, a position to which he has been re-elected every recurring year since that time. In intellectual calibre he is national in dimensions and capable of reflecting the greatest possible credit upon the distinguished body of churchmen whose interests he has so faithfully served.

CHIEF GRAND MENTOR.

The fraternity of which Dr. A. A. Cosey is the honored leader in the jurisdiction of Mississippi is one of the oldest benevolent organizations of the race, and was first organized in the year of 1871 by the revered and lamented Moses Dickson, a man of great sagacity and foresight, who early seized the opportunity after the race's emancipation to unite its members in a fraternal body for the advancement and uplift of the race. In those early days the benighted members of the race were sorely in need of a strong leader to teach them the value of unity and to train them in habits

of self-respect, decency and honor. As the head of this organization for a score of years or more, the lamented founder of the order, Mr. Moses Dickson, saw it grow from a struggling, indifferent body of men to a powerful, militant organization that is international in character and known and honored throughout the civilized world.

THE MISSISSIPPI JURISDICTION.

The jurisdiction of the State of Mississippi has the honor of leading all other State jurisdictions in numerical strength, financial power and strong leadership. It was organized in the year of 1888, and has flourished in the State as very few other organizations have. The responsible reins of leadership were put into the hands of Dr. A. A. Cosey in the year of 1909. He succeeded in office Sir R. D. Smith, who was called to his reward July 31, 1909, and who had held the reins of government in the jurisdiction for sixteen years. Dr. Cosey has been honored with re-election to the high office which he so creditably fills, and it is hoped that his administration of the affairs of the order will be so satisfactory that he may look forward without apprehension to many more years of usefulness and service to his people. Since being at the head of the order some of his policies have been crystallized into law for the government and betterment of the order.

THE GROWTH OF THE ORDER.

The growth of the order in the State of Mississippi has been marvelous. During the twenty-three years of the order's operations in the State of Mississippi it has grown from nearly zero numerically to a militant host of nearly twenty-five thousand members. This increase has been at a rate slightly in excess of one thousand members annually, and it is doubtful if any other order has grown more consistently from year to year than this one.

ITS ENDOWMENT POLICY.

That the fraternity has taken advanced ground with the other progressive and reputable orders of the race, is shown by the fact that it has a creditable endowment department. The general policy of the order pays the sum of \$500 to the beneficiary of the bereaved member's family if the member be either a Sir Knight or Daughter. This generous allowance is sufficient to bring cheer and comfort to the bereaved in life's saddest hour of affliction.

HIS BUSINESS INVESTMENTS.

The calling of Dr. Cosey is that of minister of the gospel, and this divine calling has ever had first claim upon his allegiance and fidelity; but he has not been content to sit around amidst the tombstones in the graveyards and think of nothing else but the inevitable fate that must befall every human being. Instead of being a mere theological recluse or hermit far removed from the practical operations of life, just as were the oracles and soothsayers of ancient times, the versatile doctor has elected to carry the Bible in one hand and the book of business matters in the other hand, and to use both of these books for the glorification of our Father who art in heaven. Not only has the doctor been a consistent fighter of the battles against sin and wickedness, but he has been foremost in the struggles for the material advancement of his people. He is known far and widely as "the business preacher." He is Vice-President of the Bank of Mound Bayou, one of the most substantial evidences of the race's progress in the delta, and a bank whose resources will compare favorably with any other financial institution of the race in the State. He is a stockholder and Secretary of the Mound Bayou Oil Mill and Manufacturing Company, one of the greatest and one of the most ambitious enterprises that has ever been conceived and fostered by members of the race. He is the owner of valuable property in Clarksdale, Miss., Newellton, Louisiana, and Mound Bayou, Miss. The doctor is the owner of more than one hundred acres of rich farm land in the delta, which is conservatively worth more than \$4,000. In the town of Mound Bayou he rents out nearly a dozen houses. The remarkable success of the doctor in such a short time demonstrates the possibilities that this Southland presents to every member of the race that has in his character the fundamental requisites of industry, energy, economy and thrift.

HIS ELEGANT HOME.

One of the most laudable ambitions of a sensible man should be to be the proud possessor of a comfortable and substantial home. If benign Providence has smiled rather than frowned upon the efforts of a man, such a fortunate man owes it to his wife and children to provide for their comfort and pleasure the most substantial and luxurious home that his circumstances will permit him to give them. In this particular it can be said of Dr. Cosey that he has not been derelict in his duty, for he not only has a splendid mansion in the skies, but he also has a splendid one on these mundane shores. His elegant and substantial home is not only a credit to him as a colored man, but it would be equally as creditable to him if he were a member

of the opposite race. It is a commodious, two-story, modern home, fitted up with all of the conveniences that are necessary for a man in his circumstances and station in life. It is a credit even to the Chief Grand Mentor of a great fraternity, and a monument to his energy, economy and thrift.



MRS. A. A. COSEY
RESIDENCE OF REV. AND MRS. COSEY, MOUND BAYOU, MISS.

HIS ACCOMPLISHED WIFE.

In the year of 1901 it was the happiness of Dr. Cosey to be united in the holy bonds of wedlock to Miss Ida Hope Carter, of Helena, Ark. His estimable wife is a graduate of A. & M. College of Normal, Alabama, and a woman of the highest intelligence and culture. For several years prior to her marriage she was a teacher in the schools of Alabama and Arkansas, and in that capacity she did much for the welfare and advancement of the race. She has all of the elements of a worthy and successful leader, and the team work of herself and her devoted husband can not be excelled. She is very popular on general principles, and she is a very prominent factor in the success of her husband in all of his various race activities. She is a strong worker in the church, in the Sunday School and in fraternal circles. She is an earnest worker in whatever she attempts, and generally succeeds in everything that she attempts.

HIS OPTIMISM FOR THE RACE.

Just as this Southland has given to him the opportunity and privilege to earn an honest living and serve the needs of his fellows in various capacities to the best of his ability, so does the doctor believe that every other colored man with reasonable judgment and push has a similar opportunity if he will but take advantage of it. He is optimistic of the race's future, and he hopes to live to see the interests of the race in this Southland blossom like the rose. The doctor is one of the most aggressive and one of the most successful men of the race in the State of Mississippi, and his success is the common pride of the Baptist denomination, the Knights and Daughters of Tabor, and every other activity affecting the welfare, prosperity and glory of the race.



L. U. Goin, A.B., M.D., Birmingham, Ala.



PROUD honor, indeed, it must have been to the immortal, political triumvirate that held as in the hollow of their hands the destiny of ancient Rome, the Mistress of the World; but, in the opinion of the writer, it is none the less an honor in this modern day of enlightenment to be a member of that distinguished medical triumvirate that hold in their keeping the respect, confidence and lives of thousands of the best citizens of Greater Birmingham in the State of Alabama. Such, however, is the good fortune of the affable, amiable and able physician, Dr. L. U. Goin, whose life story forms the burden of this narrative.

HIS NATIVITY AND EDUCATION.

The State of Alabama is dear to the doctor, not only as the place of his professional success as a practicing physician, but also as the place of his birth, for his infant hands were first held out to touch the big, round moon in the beautiful city of Florence, November 24, 1873.

His elementary education was received in the public schools of his native town, but was suddenly brought to a close at the tender age of twelve years while he was attending the public schools of the city of Birmingham, to which his parents had moved from Florence. At the age of twelve he began his career as a business youth by operating a grocery. His main object in entering mercantile life was to earn sufficient money with which to gain the education that he was so anxious to acquire. By close application to business for six years he finally accumulated enough money to enable him to go off to college at the age of eighteen years.

A STUDENT OF FISK UNIVERSITY.

In the autumn of 1889 he matriculated in the preparatory department of Fisk University, Nashville, Tenn. He made quite a reputation as a brilliant student while attending the university, and his precocity enabled him to gain two years in the completion of his college course. His pathway up the hill of learning was not strewn with flowers, but he had to endure many hardships and make many sacrifices to reach the final goal of his ambition. Notwithstanding the fact that his financial needs were so imperative as to make it necessary for him to discontinue his studies at college for a year or so, he finally graduated with honor in the class of 1896, receiving his classical degree of Bachelor of Arts.



DR. L. C. GOINS

A MEDICAL STUDENT.

While the doctor was a student attending Fisk University, his teachers tried to prevail upon him to study for the ministry, but his only ambition was to become a practicing physician. So, in the autumn of 1896 he matriculated as a student in Meharry Medical College, and having prosecuted his medical studies with unusual

fidelity and zeal for three years, he graduated in the year of 1899 with the degree of Doctor of Medicine.

HIS PROFESSIONAL SUCCESS.

The subject of this sketch has practiced in his home city since his graduation in the year of 1899, and he has achieved a professional success of which any physician may well be proud. He has a very extensive practice among the best people of the Magic City, and he is generally known and esteemed as one of the most capable representatives of his profession. He is a member of the surgical staff of the Home Hospital of the city of Birmingham, one of the creditable institutions for the alleviation of the sick and the afflicted of the race. He is also member of the National Association of Negro Physicians and Surgeons and the Alabama State Association of Negro Physicians, Dentists and Pharmacists. He is the official medical examiner of the Knights of Pythias, the United Brothers of Friendship, and the Grand United Order of Odd Fellows of the city of Birmingham.

MEDICAL EXAMINER FOR OLD LINE LIFE INSURANCE COMPANIES.

In addition to his official relationship with several of the leading fraternities in the city of Birmingham, Dr. Goin is the medical examiner for two great old line insurance companies. The great life insurance companies, with their gigantic capital and immense resources, employ only the best medical talent to represent their interests. The fact that Dr. Goin has the honor of being the medical examiner of these two great life insurance companies is a very high compliment to his worth as a man and his professional ability and skill as a physician. Since the year of 1895 he has been the medical examiner for the Reliance Life Insurance Company of Pittsburg, Pa., and since the year of 1906 he has served in a similar capacity for the Old Colony Life Insurance Company of Chicago, Ill. Both of these companies are old line life insurance companies, and represent a security for their patrons as solid as the rock of Gibraltar.

AN ENTERPRISING BUSINESS MAN.

Dr. Goin is not only a successful physician, but he is an enterprising business man. When he began the practice of his profession in the city of Birmingham in the year of 1899 he was in such poor circumstances that he had to borrow the money with which to pay his examination fee. For over a decade he has struggled to meet the highest demands of his profession, and not only has he signally

succeeded in his aspirations, but his splendid ability and thrift have enabled him to accumulate property whose value can not be expressed in less than five figures.

The doctor is a progressive type of citizen, and he is as prominently identified with the business life of the city of Birmingham as he is with its professional interests. He is a member of the Birmingham Negro Business League; he is a stockholder in the People's Grocery Company of Birmingham; he is a stockholder in the Fayette Oil & Gas Company of Birmingham; and he is a director of the Prudential Savings Bank of the Magic City of the South. He is one of the founders of Central Alabama College, an institution of learning, located at Mason City, near Birmingham, and operated under the auspices of the Freedmen's Aid Society.

HIS ACCOMPLISHED WIFE.

While the doctor was a student at Fisk University, his intellectual brilliancy and smooth appearance made him a popular favorite in social circles. Now, the doctor has ever kept his eyes open for the main chance. He seldom sleeps on an inviting proposition, and if perchance he should take a nap it would be with one eye open. There chanced to be at Fisk University a charming miss, whose image would constantly obtrude itself on the pages of the doctor's books whenever he would take them up for study. The remainder of this romance it is unnecessary to tell, except to state that in the year of 1899 the aforesaid romance ended in the marriage of the worthy doctor to Miss Blanche Thornton, of Dallas, Texas. She was educated at Fisk University, and for some time filled an honored position as teacher in the city schools of Dallas. She married her able husband at the very beginning of his professional career, and she has been the main source of his inspiration and success. She is a woman in whose character are exhibited all the domestic virtues and she is the idol of her dear husband and loving children, Susyc Maye and L. U. Goin, Jr.

Dr. Goin is a man of attractive personality, and he is the personification of simplicity and modesty. He has a large circle of friends that take pride in his professional success and rejoice because the doctor has so well used his time and talents for the advancement and uplift of his race. He has been careful to prepare himself for the duties of his profession and the responsibilities of life. He has wrought well, and the future will have much that will bear testimony to the ability and worth of this most capable physician and useful citizen.

William Alexander, Little Rock, Ark.

NATIONAL GRAND MASTER OF THE MOSAIC TEMPLARS OF AMERICA.

THE name of Alexander, from the earliest days of antiquity, has been suggestive of influence and power. Of all the mighty monarchs and warriors that have wrought the defeat and overthrow of empires, principalities and kingdoms and determined the destiny of the human race, there was not one other that has left such an indelible impression of his power and majesty as the mighty and peerless Alexander of the Macedonian empire of antiquity. Impelled by the magical power of that name, thousands of intelligent and thoughtful people have christened their children with this famous name; but whether Christian or surname, it is a name to conjure with, and is synonymous of power and invincibility. The worthy subject of this narrative wears the mighty name of Alexander, and in the course of his long and creditable career he has won some memorable victories, but they have been the victories of peace, rather than the triumphs of war. In his wake there has not been left the red trail of human slaughter, but the triumphs of honorable peace.

HIS BIRTHPLACE.

Mr. Alexander is a native of the State of Mississippi, but he has been an honored citizen of the State of Arkansas for such a long time that he can claim all of the prerogatives of a native son. He was born in Columbus, Mississippi, May 16, 1867, and spent the days of his early youth in his native State. He has no apology to make for having first seen the light of day in the great and progressive State of Mississippi, for that State has the proud distinction of having produced a greater percentage of the eminent men of the race than any other Southern State. Influenced by the proud record of his native State, it was but natural that he should have striven to become a great and useful man. In the year of 1880 he quit his native State and followed the star of empire to the State of Arkansas, virgin in soil, inexhaustible in natural resources, and teeming with unlimited opportunities for any hard-working, ambitious person to rise in life.

HIS EDUCATION.

The educational advantages of the subject were along the line of the average colored youth of his time. In addition to the training



WILLIAM ALEXANDER

that he received in the public schools of his native State, he had the privilege of attending Tougaloo University, one of the educational landmarks of the State. Incorporated and organized in the early days of the race's freedom, it is one of the pioneer universities of the race, and it has done incalculable service in promoting the welfare and uplift of the race. It is an institution that is famous in the annals of the universities of the South, and it has a strong and abiding hold upon the affections of the colored people, not only of the State of Mississippi, but of the whole Southland. It was when a student of this historic institution of learning that Mr. Alexander received the intelligence and inspiration to be something worthy and honorable in life. He is a serviceable man, and thoroughly equipped for the serious duties which the exigencies of the present age impose upon him.

A MERCHANT AND CONTRACTOR.

As it has already been stated, Mr. Alexander emigrated to the State of Arkansas in the year of 1880. He went there determined to succeed in any honorable work that his hands might find to do. Having succeeded in accumulating sufficient capital, in the course of time he opened up in the mercantile business, operated it for fifteen years and gained in it a foundation for a competency in life. At the same time, when he was engaged in mercantile life, he became one of the largest contracting painters in the State of Arkansas. His business as a contracting master painter became so successful that it was necessary for him to keep in his constant employment from twenty to twenty-five skilled artisans.

NATIONAL GRAND MASTER OF THE MOSAIC TEMPLARS OF AMERICA.

The subject of this sketch first became a member of the Mosaic Templars of America in the year of 1905. He at once entered with heart and soul into the work of the order, and strove in every possible way to promote its growth and prosperity. His rise to a position of influence and power in the councils of the organization has been one of the marvels of the times. It was simply meteoric, dazzling in its rapidity. There is nothing certain in this life but change and death. This fact gives rise to what is popularly called opportunity. If there should be neither change nor death, there would be only the most limited opportunity for promotion and honor. It is enough to state that there is no opportunity for a man that is not prepared for it. In the year of 1908, at the general session of the order in Paducah, Ky., Mr. Alexander was elevated to the exalted office of National Grand Master of the Mosaic Templars of America, to succeed Mr. C. W. Keatts, who had departed this life January 16,

1908. The lamented officer was one of the founders of the fraternity, and held an honored place in the esteem and affections of the members of the order that few men can ever hope to attain. Since his elevation to the position of National Grand Master of the order the present incumbent has shown himself to be the right man in the right place. He has kept pace with the true spirit of fraternal progress, and has triumphantly led his organization to the van of the fraternities of the race. He is a man that believes in doing things and getting results. He is not satisfied for the fraternity merely to hold its own, but he believes that it should yearly show a substantial growth and progress.

THE NATIONAL GRAND TEMPLE BUILDING.

In his first annual address after his elevation to the office of National Grand Master, Mr. Alexander recommended that the order erect a National Temple Building, whose site should be in the city of Little Rock, Arkansas, and whose cost should be fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000). That the recommendation of the National Grand Master met the hearty endorsement and approval of the leaders of the organization is evidenced by the fact that the Temple Building is already in process of construction, and will be probably in readiness for occupancy long before the grand session of the order in the city of Little Rock, Arkansas, in August, 1911. The Temple Building is a magnificent, substantial, five-story structure, built on the most modern plans and provided with every convenience for lodge, office and store purposes. This mammoth building is not only a credit to the progressive organization that is erecting it, but it is a credit to the whole Negro race.

UNIFORM RANK DEPARTMENT.

In his first annual address to the Grand Temple, the National Grand Master, Mr. William Alexander, also recommended the addition of the Uniform Rank Department to the National Order of the Mosaic Templars of America. The object of this department is to organize the members of the temples of the order into companies, which shall make a study of military tactics and military science from a fraternal point of view. Such training is imperative among the young men of the race, whose only opportunity for such training is limited to fraternal organizations of the race in the South. That the recommendation of the National Grand Master met the approval of the order is shown by the fact that there are in the order fifteen uniform ranks of men and five uniform ranks of ladies, all fully and splendidly equipped. This new departure will add

much to the order in the way of both training and attraction, and put the order in this respect on terms of equality with the other progressive fraternities of the race.

GROWTH OF THE ORDER DURING HIS ADMINISTRATION.

Since Mr. Alexander took hold of the leadership of the organization in the year of 1908 it has experienced the greatest growth in its history. In this short period of time his unremitting labors for the order have resulted in the addition of fifteen thousand (15,000) members to the organization.

Very few organizations of a fraternal character can show a growth of over five thousand members annually for a period of nearly three years.

HIS DUTIES AS NATIONAL GRAND MASTER.

As National Grand Master of the order, Mr. Alexander is traveling most of the time, and in his official itinerary he covers eighteen States in which the order operates. His duties are of the most responsible character. He is the general superintendent and chief executive of the order, and his duties as laid down in the constitution are as follows: To preside at all meeting of the C. of M. and Grand Temple, and enforce all the rules thereof; to institute the quarterly password and, with the assistance of the Grand Scribe, to furnish it to all the temples in good standing; to sign all orders on the National Grand Treasurer, drawn according to law; to sign all documents and papers that require his signature in order to authenticate them properly; to fill all vacancies that are caused by death; to revoke the commission of any officer appointed by him; to establish temples and make passes in degrees; to appoint and commission any brother as a National Deputy Grand Mosaic Master to superintend in establishing temples, or to perform any other business pertaining to the good of the order; to suspend any temple working under the charter of the Mosaic Temple, when failing to comply with the constitution and general laws of the order; to visit the State Grand Lodges of the various State jurisdictions; to settle all disputes and points of law; to examine the books and accounts of the various officers and see that all National and State Grand Lodge assessments are collected before said lodges can be represented in the State Grand Lodge. All new laws passed by the State Grand Lodges must be referred to him to submit to the National Committee of Management for its approval or rejection.

HIS ESTIMABLE WIFE.

In the balmy month of August, 1901, Mr. Alexander was united in the bonds of holy wedlock to Miss Minnie Cannon, of Spartan-

burg, South Carolina. His wife is a woman of education and ability. She was a student of the Spartanburg High School and received therein a broad and liberal training. She is a conspicuous leader in fraternity circles in the State of Arkansas. She is the worthy High Priestess of the Ladies and Knights of Honor of Arkansas. In the course of a year she visits two hundred lodges in the State, with a total membership of four thousand ladies. Those same elements of character that have elevated her to leadership and honor in the councils of the Ladies and Knights of Honor have also made her invaluable to the success of her husband. She is a ceaseless worker in whatever she attempts to do, and is capable of giving a good account of her stewardship in every undertaking. Mr. Alexander is thrice blessed in having a wife of such unusual fidelity, versatility and general ability.

AN ESTIMATE OF MR. ALEXANDER.

Not only has the subject of this sketch been an unqualified success in everything that he has attempted, but he has given evidence of the highest capacity for leadership of both institutions and men. In his experience, both as a merchant and contractor, he was more or less successful in the accumulation of money and property. He is a gentleman of pleasing personality and engaging manners. He has a host of friends that are bound to him not only by the ties of fraternal unity and love, but by the ties of his congenial personality and sterling character. He has many of the elements of leadership which commend him to the masses of the people of his race. He is an ambitious man, and seeks power for the good that he can render to his people, rather than for the mere love of power itself. If he has achieved such marvelous results in the short time of his incumbency in office, what may not be expected of him with more experience in his exalted office?



Professor J. A. Martin, B.S., Jackson, Miss.

PRESIDENT OF THE MISSISSIPPI ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS IN COLORED
SCHOOLS AND PRINCIPAL OF THE SMITH-ROBERTSON
PUBLIC SCHOOL.



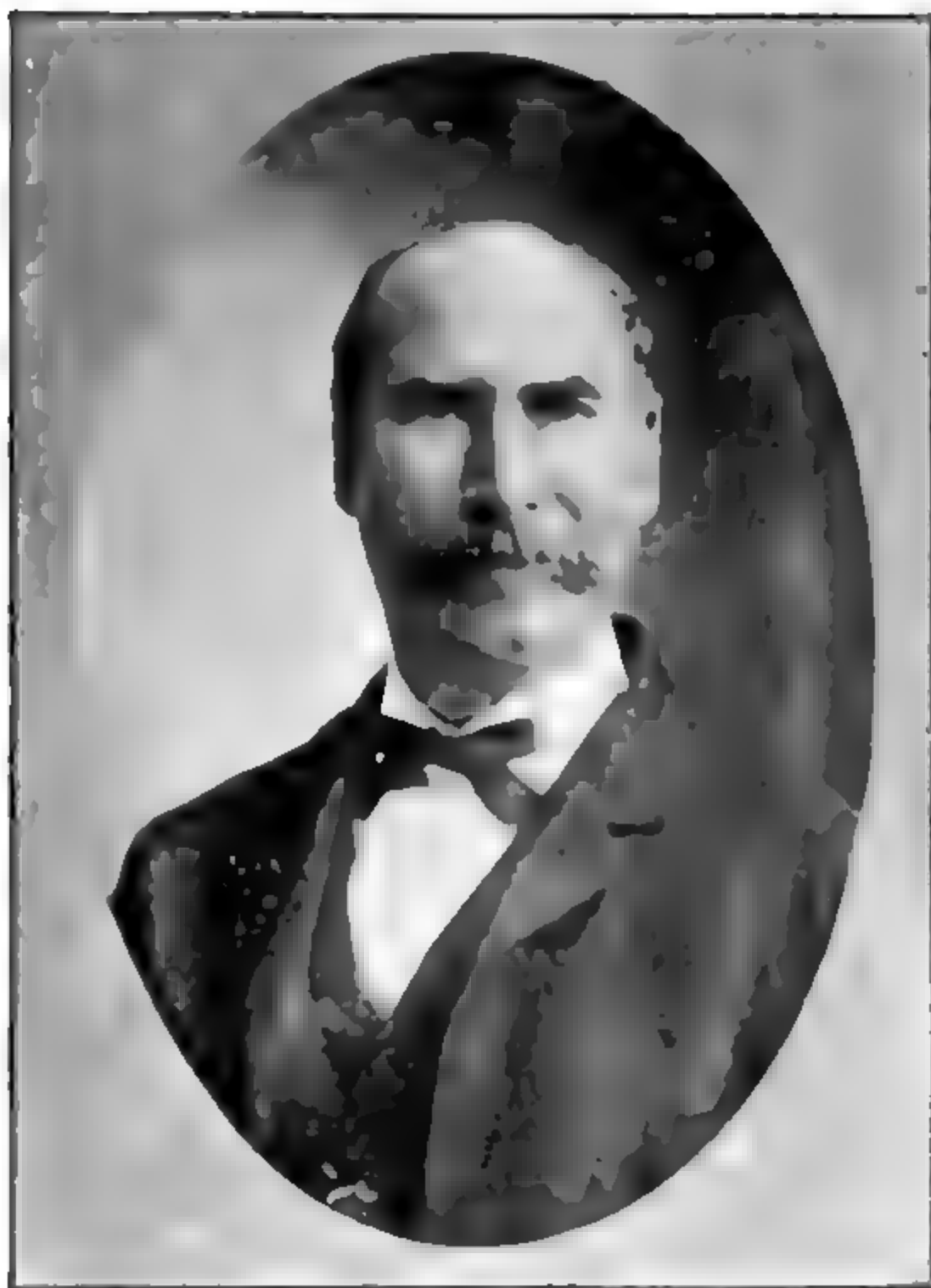
THE grand old State of Mississippi is not only a State of vast, varied and inexhaustible natural resources, made so by her fertile soil, equable climate and the unremitting industry of her citizens, but it is a State that takes the lead in the production of serviceable and useful men. Great indeed may be the material resources of any State, but greater still must the men be to build a State and raise it to the pinnacle of grandeur and glory. The proud State of Mississippi has ever teemed with distinguished men, whose superb intellects have been not only the pride and glory of the State itself, but the common inheritance of the nation. While many of the brightest intellects in the history of the State could not lay claim to nativity in the State, yet many of the ablest and most illustrious men of the State have grown up from birth to maturity within the borders of the State. Among the distinguished and eminent sons of the race whose efforts for the advancement and uplift of the race have been productive of such beneficent and lasting results may be mentioned the worthy, serviceable and race-loving man, whose life story is herein briefly narrated.

HIS BIRTHPLACE.

Professor Martin was born in Kirkwood, Mississippi, January 5, 1863. It is true that when he first came to these mundane shores his infant eyes beheld the fires of national conflict, and his infant ears heard the din of dreadful musketry and the roar of hostile cannon; yet the violence of that fratricidal war did not leave its impress on his character, for he has ever been an advocate of peace and good will toward all mankind. His early life was a struggle for existence on the farm, and the labors and hardships to which he was inured had much to do with shaping his character and preparing him for his subsequent life of activity and usefulness among his people.

HIS PARENTS.

One of the great misfortunes in the life of the subject of this sketch was that he did not have the protection, care and assistance of a father. For that reason he was thrown almost wholly on his



FRID J A MARTIN

own resources to fight the battles of life for himself. In the crucial days of youth the ship of life needs a careful and faithful pilot or it may drift through the breakers and be dashed against the impending rocks to its destruction. But if the youth was not blessed with the protection, care and love of a father, he was infinitely blessed with the encouragement and loving devotion of one of the dearest mothers in the whole wide world. Mrs. Jennie Martin, his estimable and devoted mother, had all of the virtues of the Roman matron of old, and whatever success Professor Martin has achieved in life is a monument to his mother's devotion, sacrifices and love. In the struggling days of his youth there came to his rescue his dear uncle, Mr. R. L. Levy, who taught him the virtue of economy and the real potency of the almighty dollar in human affairs. His uncle, with almost parental interest, encouraged him to work hard, save his money, obtain an education and prepare himself for the great responsibilities that the future would impose upon him.

HIS EDUCATION.

In the early days of his youth the educational advantages of Professor Martin were more imaginary than real. Living, as he did, on a farm, and amidst the lowly conditions incident thereto, he enjoyed only the barest rural opportunities for attending school until he had reached the age of sixteen years. The future great educator of his race had to be contented with the privilege of attending school for the period of one or two months in a year until his glorious release from the toil, privation and bondage of farm life. In the year of 1879, when he had entered his sixteenth year, the ambition of nearly a lifetime was in part realized, for he was able to shake the plantation dust off his feet and embrace his first opportunity to attend a real first-class school instead of a log cabin school house in the backwoods. In the memorable year of 1879 the ambitious youth bid a joyful goodbye to the old farm and went off to Alcorn A. & M. College, to live the new and more attractive life of a student. There in those classic walls he toiled with knitted brow and midnight oil for six long years and won the palm of reward for his diligent application to duty. It was indeed a proud moment in his life when, on the occasion of his graduation in the month of June, 1885, he received his diploma of graduation from that historic institution.

HIS CAREER AS A SCHOOLMASTER.

That the record of Professor Martin as a student of Alcorn University must have been highly satisfactory to the president and faculty of that institution is evident from the fact that within a

few months after his graduation from that school he was honored with an appointment to a professorship in his Alma Mater. He assumed his duties of professor in Alcorn College in January, 1886, and filled with great credit the duties of his position for seven years, or until the year of 1893. Severing his scholastic relationship with his Alma Mater in the year of 1893, he immediately became principal of the Yazoo Graded School No. 2, and served in that capacity for five years in succession. While serving as principal of that school he had the honor of graduating the first three classes that the school ever had to complete the course of study. In the year of 1898 he resigned the principalship of the public school in Yazoo City in order to assume the duties of principal of Smith-Robertson public school of Jackson, Mississippi, a position that he has already filled with credit for more than a decade. It has been the fortune of very few men to succeed so well in a professional capacity, for not only has he given perfect satisfaction to his constituency, but he has merited the favor and best wishes of the educational powers that be. Professor Martin has the honor of being one of the few men of the race that has consecrated himself to the teachers' profession for the purpose of making it his life work. In his estimation teaching is not merely a profession, but it is a real calling, and as such the professor considers it to be as imperative to him as the call to the inspired preacher to expound the Word. He has the characteristics of the true teacher, and he has never made the profession of teaching a mere stepping stone to some other profession. It is true that the financial rewards of the teacher are very little in comparison with the emoluments in the other so-called learned professions, but great as money is in the affairs of the world, it can never give to the true disciple of the profession that perfect satisfaction which the conscientious performance of duty toward those plastic and receptive minds in the school room can always give, and which in a measure compensates the teacher for his sacrifices in other respects.

HIS PROFESSIONAL HONORS.

No other schoolmaster of the race in the State of Mississippi has been more highly honored in a professional way than has Professor Martin. His great sympathy with those who are struggling in the profession, his consecrated efforts to help in the great work of uplifting the race, his matchless ability as a teacher, his splendid reputation as a school executive, and his general faculty for getting results in every department of the teacher's profession, have commended and endeared him to all of his fellow workers, who have been glad of the opportunity to confer upon him every honor in their power. He is the honored President of the Mississippi Association

of Teachers in Colored Schools, and has filled this exalted position since the organization of the association. So highly is he appreciated and such a strong hold has he on the affection and loyalty of his professional constituents that he has been repeatedly re-elected to his office without the semblance of opposition. He is also Treasurer of the National Association of Teachers in Colored Schools. For the past twenty-five years his labors in behalf of the welfare and uplift of his race have been a source of inspiration to thousands of young men and young women, who never would have attained their greatest possibilities without such inspiration and example. He believes in the value of Christian education, and his daily life is in conformity with the doctrine that he preaches.

HE EDUCATED HIS SISTERS.

One of the most suggestive and most impressive thoughts of life is that we should lift others while we climb. This has been one of the guiding principles of the professor's life. Not only has he played a conspicuous part in the uplift of his race, but he has personally interested himself in the education of his sisters. He has provided for his sisters educational advantages of the best character, and has to an extent made a compensation in them for the educational advantages of which he was deprived in youth.

HIS WEALTH.

It has been the experience of very few teachers to gain a competency in life while still engaged in the profession. Teachers are not expected to amass riches in this terrestrial life, but they are to look for their reward in the Great Beyond. But there are exceptions to all rules, and in this respect Professor Martin is a very conspicuous exception. Though his salary as a teacher has been small in comparison with his real worth, yet he has by exercising frugality, economy and thrift attained a financial standing that is held by but few men of the race. He has carefully husbanded and skillfully invested his earnings in real estate and in other solid investments, and the result is that he is one of the wealthiest colored men in the State. Professor Martin is an isolated example of a wealthy man still engaged in the profession of teaching. His extraordinary success professionally and financially demonstrates the fact that he is a first-class business man, as well as a high class schoolmaster. He is one of the founders of the American Trust & Savings Bank of Jackson, Miss., and he has served in an official capacity in that bank since its organization. He is First Vice-President of the bank, and has for some time served as Acting President of the same. The

presidency of the bank has been repeatedly offered to him, but he has consistently declined to accept it, because of his fear that the onerous duties of President would interfere with his efficiency in the school room. He is first of all a schoolmaster, and he is unwilling to do aught that will interfere with his conception of the proper performance of his duties. Professor Martin is probably the wealthiest schoolmaster of color in the State. He is one of the largest realty holders in the city of Jackson, Miss. He has tenement property in different parts of the city, and the writer, while visiting the city of Jackson, had the privilege of seeing much of the property that is owned by Professor Martin. The sight was so unusual and so amazing to the writer that he could hardly realize the possibility of such. The worthy professor is not only the leading professional school master of Jackson, Miss., but he is financially one of the city's most substantial citizens.

THE PROFESSOR'S ESTIMABLE WIFE.

Good fortune has smiled on Professor Martin in more ways than one. Though the days of his youth were beset with struggles and trials, yet the days of his mature manhood have been ample compensation for the privations of former years. While professional success, high honors and wealth have with the passing years come to Professor Martin, yet one of the greatest blessings of his life came to him when he came in possession of his accomplished and devoted wife. In the year of 1895 Professor Martin succeeded in winning the heart and hand of Miss Marie Fitzpatrick, of New Orleans, Louisiana. She is a woman of culture and refinement and a true helpmeet and companion in every application of the term. She has wisely managed the affairs of her household and reared the four children that were entrusted to her care, protection and love. She is trained in the science of domestic economy, and her wise administration of affairs has materially assisted her husband to rise to his present eminent position in the financial and business world. Her devoted and appreciative husband is glad of the opportunity thus publicly to express his appreciation for his wife's invaluable assistance to him in all of his undertakings. She is not only his dear wife, but she is his business partner and counselor, and by hearkening to her advice he will never suffer loss or experience adverse fortune.

CONCLUSION.

The professor is a man of distinguished appearance. Nature was indeed lavish in her gifts to him, for she gave to him a physical, mental and moral grandeur that she does not confer upon all mortal

beings. He is kind, pleasant and affable, and one of the most popular as well as one of the most useful citizens of his home city. He is a man of versatile accomplishments and is a prominent factor in the social, fraternal, business, religious and educational life of his city and State. He has made good in every capacity, and measured from this standpoint, he is one of the ideal leaders of the race in the South. His extraordinary success in life in spite of the fact that he had no father to assist him in his struggles, and that he started comparatively late in life to acquire his education, ought to be an incentive to every young man and young woman of the race to work in patience for a higher and nobler life. The race is fortunate in having such a representative type of citizen as the worthy subject of this sketch, whom everybody knows, respects, loves and honors.





A. N. JOHNSON

A. N. Johnson, Nashville, Tenn.

FUNERAL DIRECTORY.



ONE of the cardinal virtues of progressive manhood is push. It matters not how great the mental attainments of a man may be, he can never become an eminently successful man unless the elements of push enter largely in the structure of his character. The gateway to success is labeled "Push," and only those who read this mystic symbol will succeed in entering therein. If through the instrumentality of push a man of mediocre ability can scale the loftiest peaks of success, what may not be accomplished by a man of unusual ability when fortified with this most valuable asset of character?

One of the very best examples of success in the ranks of the Negro race in this whole country is that of Mr. A. N. Johnson, the widely known, popular and wealthy funeral director and business man of Nashville, Tenn. He is a conspicuous example of a progressive and aggressive business man, and in that capacity he is a beacon light that throws its refulgent and penetrating rays across the whole racial sky.

HIS NATIVITY.

Mr. Johnson is a native of the beautiful and progressive State of Alabama, and first came to these mundane shores at the close of the Civil War. Being strictly a post-bellum product, his battles have been waged and his triumphs have been won in the arena of peace. He proudly wears on his brow the laurels of honorable and successful achievements in the domain of peace, and in this respect he is as much a conqueror as the hero on the field of martial conflict.

A PRECOCIOUS YOUTH.

Mr. Johnson has an innate capacity for getting results; nor does it take him a lifetime to accomplish what he may want to do. He was a precocious youth, and this statement is borne out by the fact that he was a school teacher at the early age of fourteen years. He had not only begun his political career, but he had taken unto himself a companion for life by the time he had reached his majority.

HIS POLITICAL HONORS IN ALABAMA.

In these late years very few men of the race have been more signally honored politically than has the subject of this sketch. Notwithstanding the fact that he is comparatively a young man, Mr. Johnson is a veteran politician, and has figured conspicuously in the political annals of the State of Alabama for over a score of years. He has been honored with membership on the Republican State Executive Committee of the State of Alabama ever since he was in his twenty-first year, and he still serves in that capacity in spite of the fact that he is a business man, living in the old Volunteer State. He served in the Internal Revenue Department, and in the Railway Postal Service until the year of 1893, when he began his meteoric and spectacular career as a business man in the city of Mobile, Ala. He was a member of the famous "Big Four" of the State of Alabama, a political combination that held the principal political honors of the State of Alabama as in the hollow of their hands. He was honored with election to most all of the Republican National Conventions that have been held since the first nomination of the lamented President William McKinley in the year of 1896. He had the honor of serving as Chairman of the Republican Campaign Committee when the last Republican Congressman was elected and seated from the State of Alabama. He also enjoys the unique distinction of having been the last member of the Negro race to receive the strict party Republican congressional nomination in the State of Alabama.

A NEWSPAPER MAGNATE.

In his career, both as politician and business man, Mr. Johnson appreciated the great power of the press as a molder of public opinion. It is the inalienable birthright of every American citizen, irrespective of race, to "toot his own horn," and in recognition of this fact Mr. Johnson founded two strong and influential newspapers, the Mobile Press, which is the oldest weekly publication of the race in the State of Alabama, and the State Republican, which was for many years the leading organ of the Republican party in the State of Alabama. In the days of his zenith in political affairs in the State of Alabama, these two valuable newspapers were the vehicle by means of which his able, facile and fearless pen laid bare the sophistries and pretensions of the opposite party, and instilled the fundamental and never-dying principles of his own party.

A SUCCESSFUL BUSINESS MAN.

In the year of 1893, Mr. Johnson entered upon his eminently successful career as an undertaker in the city of Mobile, Ala., and in

the course of less than two decades his aggressive business methods built up possibly the greatest undertaking establishment in the South. His ambition has ever been to lead in every worthy enterprise, and he will not be satisfied with a subordinate rank in the business that has made him famous the country over. Having reached the zenith of his possibilities in the city of Mobile, he decided to dispose of his business in that city and establish a similar business in a more cosmopolitan-like center, in which he might be justified in expanding his business to any reasonable proportions and to an extent that would have been impossible in a city of the size and importance of Mobile. So in the year of 1907 Mr. Johnson quit the city of Mobile, moved to the city of Nashville, Tenn., and there established what is generally thought to be the finest, costliest and most magnificent funeral directory of the Negro race in the whole world. In this grand business establishment is found the climax of Mr. Johnson's characteristic and laudable ambition to own in his own right the finest funeral directory in the world.

THE JOHNSON BUILDING.

On coming to the city of Nashville, Tenn., to engage in the undertaking business, Mr. Johnson succeeded in acquiring possession of what was at one time the most elegant and most historic mansion in the Capital City of Tennessee. Located on a lot that is 103 by 166 feet, this mammoth building is within a block of the State Capitol and right in the very heart of the city's business center. It is the most centrally located, and one of the most valuable business blocks that is owned by a Negro in the city of Nashville. In this building is located the funeral directory of Mr. Johnson, which for completeness, elegance and modernity of equipment can not be surpassed in the wide world of Negro business enterprise. Everything is of the latest design and in harmony with the most fastidious taste. His delivery equipment is one of the wonders of the undertaking world, and consists of five elegant, modern, up-to-date funeral cars, seven first-class carriages and a plentiful variety of landaus, broughams, Berlin coaches and other necessary paraphernalia. One of the features of his delivery equipment is his costly and beautifully matched teams. There can be no demand for a funeral occasion for which he is not well prepared to give perfect satisfaction, and the honor of interring the body of the Chief Magistrate of the nation would be merely a matter of course. Mr. Johnson is one of the most expert men in the undertaking business that the country affords. He is the holder of licenses not only from several different States, but he is also provided with diplomas from several different colleges, certifying to his mastery of his business.



1. Chapel of A. N. Johnson
2. A. N. Johnson's Ebony Funeral Car
3. One of A. N. Johnson's Carriages, with Arabian Horses, Waiting for Gov. Patterson.
4. A. N. Johnson's White Funeral Car Arabian Horses
5. Reception Parlor of A. N. Johnson.

In the proper management of his funeral directory five expert licensed embalmers are constantly employed. The name of Mr. Johnson is a synonym for perfection in his business and a guarantee as good as a government bond that the interests of his patrons will be perfectly safeguarded.

A BENEFactor TO MANY.

Not only has Mr. Johnson achieved sensational success in his business, but he has been instrumental in training and setting up in the undertaking business some of the leading undertakers of the South, and in this respect he has proved himself to be a benefactor to the race. He has been a liberal patron of the worthy men of the race, and his personal influence and financial support have raised several men to success and leadership.

HIS PERSONALITY.

Mr. Johnson is first, last and all the time one of the premier business men of the race, and real business methods form the cardinal principles of his life. In addition to his mammoth funeral directory, he is identified with other business enterprises of the race. He is First Vice-President of the People's Savings Bank & Trust Company, of Nashville, Tenn., one of the leading banking institutions of the race in the Rock City. It is but natural that fortune should have lavished her golden smiles upon him as a reward for his unparalleled business enterprise, aggressiveness and push. He is an active, indefatigable worker, and is never satisfied with anything less than absolute supremacy in his business. He has the restless, adventurous and indomitable spirit that is said to be the all-conquering trait of the Anglo-Saxon race. He is one of the wealthiest men of the race, and has accumulated his wealth in a legitimate and honorable way. His business motto is "Owe No Man," and he lives up to this cardinal principle, both in the letter and in the spirit. He is one of the largest taxpayers in both the States of Tennessee and Alabama, and there is not a cent of encumbrance on his vast realty holdings. He is a gentleman of pleasing personality and striking appearance, and his presence would have added dignity and grace to the Roman Senate of olden times, if he had chanced to live in those historic times. He is in the fullest acceptation of the term a successful man, and his indomitable spirit has carved for him a name that is inscribed high on the eternal rock of business pre-eminence and undying fame.



REV. M. M. PONTON

Rev. M. M. Ponton, A.M., S.T.D., Jackson, Miss.

PRESIDENT OF CAMPBELL COLLEGE.



NO RACE has a monopoly of either ignorance or intelligence, vice or virtue, but in all the races of mankind there are men of high intellectual and moral endowment that have risen far above the environment of birth and circumstances, plucked the choicest petals from the rose of opportunity and made for themselves a name and fame that will be as lasting as the eternal hills. Among the able, scholarly and brilliant men of the Negro race in America who have helped to dignify, magnify and glorify the intelligence, character and worth of the race, no other member is entitled to more credit for services rendered in the cause of the race's uplift and advancement than the distinguished educator and eminent divine, Dr. Mungo Melancthon Ponton, whose life story forms the burden of this narrative.

HIS NATIVITY AND PARENTAGE.

The subject of this sketch is one of the gifted sons of the state of North Carolina, and was born at Twilight, Halifax County, May 10, 1857. He was the son of Henry and Rachel Ponton, both of whom were the first born of their parents after their parents' arrival in America from the west coast of Africa. Thus Dr. Ponton has not only the royal blood of the land of Africa in his veins, but he has also a mixed strain of blood inherited on the side of his father, who was a product of the anomalous conditions which have ever been a blight upon American social life.

His father and mother were slaves, and had no opportunities for gaining an education, but they were people of unusual intelligence for their day and time. That his father was one of nature's noble sons is evidenced by the fact that he toiled, struggled and sacrificed until he had saved enough money with which to purchase his own freedom. Having purchased his own freedom, it became the ambition of his life to toil and purchase the freedom of his family, but the immortal Lincoln, with a few strokes of his pen, emancipated his dear wife and children and made further effort on his part unnecessary.

A STRUGGLING YOUTH ON THE FARM.

The early days of Dr. Ponton were spent on the farm, and the hardships and severe discipline that were incident to farming life

were a school of preparation for a higher and larger sphere of service and usefulness in after life. No man can truly appreciate a blessing unless he has been compelled to toil and suffer for it. The blessings of liberty and opportunity that our race now enjoys were purchased at an awful sacrifice of blood and treasure, and they will never be fully appreciated until our race will have suffered even greater miseries, injustices and wrongs than those which it is now undergoing. Having served a thorough apprenticeship on the farm and having mastered every detail of that life, the subject of this sketch quit the farm, went out in the great, busy world, and followed divers occupations in order to earn money with which to gain an education. No kind of work was too hard, and no kind of drudgery too severe for him to do in order to procure the means that would enable him to realize the greatest ambition of his life.

A HARD STRUGGLE UP THE HILL OF LEARNING.

Very few youth of the Negro race ever labored more patiently and more earnestly to gain an education than did the subject of this narrative. Indeed, in these modern days, education is handed on a silver platter, figuratively speaking, to the youth of the race. His dear mother's limited information first placed his feet in learning's pathway, but the subject himself had to do all of the rest. He learned the art of penmanship and correspondence by diligently copying and re-copying the writing on the cast-away envelopes that he found in the waste baskets in the railroad office in which he worked as a menial employe. The only education that he ever gained in the days of his early youth was of the dig-and-get-it variety. He had no opportunities except those which he himself made, and he had no other encouragement except his unconquerable desire and determination to do something worthy and to be somebody.

After the death of his parents he purchased for his use a geography, an arithmetic, a history and a slate, and with these instruments of intellectual warfare he battered down the citadels of his own ignorance and added wonderfully to the sum total of his knowledge. In the course of time he quit his native home and traveled quite extensively in quest of information concerning the great outside world, which had been a sealed book to him up to that time. While traveling his eyes were opened to the great possibilities that the world presents to a man that is thoroughly prepared to serve the interests of the world. A vista of opportunity was opened up to his understanding, which fired his ambition to prepare himself to fill those wonderful opportunities. Finally, in the year of 1881, the subject settled down in the city of Cleveland, O.,

where he took advantage of the opportunity to attend night school at the Spencerian Business College. Greatly encouraged by his experience and progress in the city of Cleveland, in the month of September, 1882, he matriculated as a student at Lincoln University, from which institution of learning, after experiencing many difficulties and hardships, extending over six years of unremitting mental application, he graduated with the degree of Bachelor of Arts in the year of 1888.

A STUDENT AT MANY DIFFERENT COLLEGES.

In the autumn of 1888, the subject of this sketch matriculated at Yale Theological Seminary, but having not been satisfied with that institution of learning, he entered the famous Boston University as a student, from which institution he had the honor of graduating in the month of June, 1891, with the degree of Bachelor of Sacred Theology. During the three years of his student life at Boston University he took special lectures at Newton Theological Seminary, Andover Theological Seminary, Howard Theological Seminary, Episcopal Theological Seminary, Cambridge, Mass., and the College of Liberal Arts of Boston University.

HIS CAREER AS AN EDUCATOR.

It is but natural that a man of such erudition and brilliancy of scholarship should devote his unusual talents to the education of his people. The consequence is that the life work of the subject has been chiefly identified with the cause of education and religion. It has been the fortune of very few men of the race to be able to serve the interests of their race with the same degree of efficiency and success as Dr. Ponton has been doing and still is doing. He taught a private class of ministers in the city of Boston, Mass. Quite a number of years ago he taught a public school in Van Wert County, Northwest Ohio. He was formerly Principal of Shorter University, Arkadelphia, Ark., now Shorter College, Argenta, Ark. He is the founder of Turner Theological Seminary, Morris Brown College, Atlanta, Ga., and he was also Dean of that institution and occupied for seven years the chair of Hebrew and Didactic Theology. For four years he was Field Superintendent and Bible Lecturer for the John C. Martin Educational Fund for the training of Negro preachers, Sabbath School teachers and public school teachers throughout the Southern States.

HIS CAREER AS A MINISTER OF THE GOSPEL.

[Dr. Ponton is a minister of the gospel, and considers that field of labor as the real calling of his life.] Of course, he is an eminent

teacher also, but every true minister of the gospel is both a preacher and a teacher, and in this dual capacity he can best serve the cause of humanity. His first appointment as a minister was at St. Paul A. M. E. Church, Cambridge, Mass., a place which he served for only a few months while he was a theological student of Boston University. His second appointment was at Narragansett Pier, Rhode Island, a summer resort. Both of these appointments were in the New England Conference, and in the Episcopal district of Right Rev. Bishop H. M. Turner. From the New England Conference he was transferred to the Ohio Conference in the Episcopal district of Right Rev. Bishop D. A. Payne, and served at Bellaire, Canton, Warren, Salem and Van Wert. While serving in that conference he had the honor of founding East Cleveland Mission, which has since developed into the well known Second A. M. E. Church of Cleveland. In the summer of 1894 he transferred from the Ohio Conference to the Arkansas Conference, and for one year he was the pastor of St. Paul A. M. E. Church at Arkadelphia. In the year of 1896 he transferred to the Georgia Conference, in which he served some of the leading pastorates in the State. In addition to filling many other charges in the North Georgia Conference, Dr. Ponton served as pastor of St. James A. M. E. Church and Trinity A. M. E. Church, in the city of Atlanta. He succeeded Dr. Flipper, now Bishop Flipper, as pastor of St. Paul A. M. E. Church, Atlanta, Ga.

A SCHOLAR WITH HONORED DEGREES.

Dr. Ponton is one of the most scholarly men of the race. He received his degree of Bachelor of Arts from Lincoln University in the year of 1888. In the year of 1891 Boston University conferred upon him the degree of Bachelor of Sacred Theology. In the year of 1904 Lincoln University conferred upon him the degree of Master of Arts, and in the year of 1905 Morris Brown College of Atlanta, Ga., conferred upon him the exalted degree of Doctor of Sacred Theology. Thus it may be seen that Dr. Ponton really studied and earned some of the highest honors from the leading universities of America, and that his name is worthy to be written in letters of gold and placed in the archives of America's most intellectual men.

THE HONORED PRESIDENT OF CAMPBELL COLLEGE, JACKSON, MISS.

In the year of 1906, Dr. Ponton was recalled to Morris Brown College to fill the John C. Martin Bible Chair professorship. Having performed the duties of this position with his usual fidelity to duty and with his usual brilliancy, in the month of July, 1907, he



1. Executive Board of Campbell College. Top row, reading from left to right — Rev. J. W. Hair, Sect. Rev. J. I. Morant, Treas. Rev. Wm. Singleton, Chair. Bottom row, reading from left to right — Rev. L. W. W. Manaway, Rev. M. M. Ponton, President of Campbell College.
 2. Landscape View and Student Body of Campbell College, showing Bell Tower, Band Stand, and Boys' Dormitory.
 3. President Ponton, walking across the Campus. Band Stand Pavillion, and Girls' Building.
 4. President Mungo M. Ponton, S. T. D. of Campbell College, Jackson, Miss., at Girls' Building.

resigned his professorship at Morris Brown College to accept the presidency of Campbell College, Jackson, Miss., in which institution he has not only performed the exalted duties of President, but he fills the chair of Revealed Religion and Evidences of Christianity. Campbell College is one of the luminaries in the educational firmament of the State of Mississippi, and it is the pride of the A. M. E. Church of that State. Under the splendid leadership of Dr. Ponton the college has been revived and put into a state of aggressiveness for efficient work among the people for whom it was established to elevate and uplift. The college has an enrollment of nearly five hundred students and employs fifteen teachers on its faculty. Dr. Ponton is doing a great work as President of this worthy institution of learning, and his success is not only a source of pride and gratification to his own denomination, but to the whole Negro race.

SPARKS OF INSPIRATION FROM THE ANVIL OF HIS LIFE.

Notwithstanding the fact that Dr. Ponton is a minister of the gospel and an eloquent divine, yet his very life, humble in origin, filled with struggles and hardships in its early days, and now beautified and glorified with unbounded success, is the most eloquent sermon that he has ever preached in the course of his brilliant career. By reading his life and comparing his humble origin with his present position of influence, dignity and power, every ambitious youth of the race may be encouraged, stimulated and inspired to persevere until he reaches the goal of his ambition. From an untutored, hard-working boy on a farm to the presidency of one of the great colleges of the race is a sublime height to climb, and this great honor is a fitting monument to his patience, perseverance and determination to make himself serviceable to his race, to the cause of humanity and to the Creator of mankind. The doctor is really a beacon light of inspiration that lights up the pathway of hope for the youth of the whole race, and no son or daughter of Africa should be discouraged in the ambition to aspire to the best and the greatest in American life. Whether as plowboy on the farm, or hard laborer in the ditch, or student in the school room, or teacher in the common schools, or distinguished educator in college, or an inspired minister of the gospel, the life of Dr. Ponton is worthy of emulation by the aspiring youth of the race, and should be treasured by them as one of their most precious legacies.

HIS ACCOMPLISHED AND ESTIMABLE WIFE.

In the year of 1900 Dr. Ponton was united in the holy bonds of wedlock to Mrs. Ida E. Upshaw, of Washington, D. C. She is a

graduate of the schools of Washington, her native home, and she had the honor of teaching in the schools of the nation's capital for a number of years. Subsequently, she was a member of the faculty of Morris Brown College, Atlanta, Ga., and it was while she was serving in that capacity that the fates guided Dr. Ponton in her direction and finally blessed him with her companionship as a faithful and devoted wife. Their union has been in every respect an ideal one, and the intellectuality of the two has given them similarity of tastes, a common aspiration, and a mutual enjoyment. Mrs. Ponton is of invaluable service to her husband in his literary labors, and many a successful achievement along that line would have been impossible without her cheerful assistance and co-operation. She is not only a woman of splendid intellectual attainments, but she is a woman of varied experience, splendid judgment, extensive knowledge of business life and sound common sense. She is the confidential assistant and adviser of her husband in both his personal and business affairs, and she is that type of woman that can best assist a public man in such a responsible position to get the best results both for his own interests and the welfare of the race.

A LEADER OF THE RACE.

[The leadership of a race is something that can not be assumed by any man, for it is an attribute that results from the mental attitude of those whose prerogative it is to accord or withdraw it. Dr. Ponton has every requisite and every equipment for the ideal leader of the race that he is. He is one of the best prepared men in the galaxy of the race's greatness, and his many years of consecrated effort for the advancement and uplift of the race are worthy of the race's greatest appreciation. He is one of the pillars of his branch of the Christian Church, and his clarion notes have been heard in a majority of the schools and churches of the South, exhorting the race to take a stand against vice, corruption and iniquity, and to show to the world that it stands for education, morality, religion and everything that will help the world to move ever upward, onward and heavenward.



Rev. H. H. King, D.D., Yazoo City, Miss.

PRESIDING ELDER OF YAZOO CITY DISTRICT A. M. E. CHURCH AND
PRESIDENT OF PEOPLE'S PENNY SAVINGS BANK.

INTELLIGENT and wise leadership is necessary for the development, growth and prosperity of every people, and most certainly is it necessary in the case of a struggling race less than a half century removed from the degrading and blighting influences of slavery. But it has been the wisdom of an all-wise Providence to prepare leaders for His people that they



REV. H. H. KING

might be trained in habits of industry, economy, thrift and perseverance, without which no people can truly prosper and attain to their highest possibilities.

If the Negro race in America has made any considerable advancement up the hill of life during the years of its freedom, it has been due to the character of its leadership. In many instances ambitious

and selfish men have seized the reins of power and dominated to the injury and ruin of the race, yet *it* has pleased the Almighty Power to prepare for leadership of the race men of Christian character and spiritual power to lead the race in progress, prosperity and honor. Such leaders are a blessing to any people, and the struggling race, whose members wear "the shadowed livery of the burning sun," need not become discouraged and despair as long as there can be found in the ranks of the race such courageous, aggressive and inspiring leaders as the inimitable, determined and successful gospel minister and business man whose life story is narrated in these pages. Long live this useful servant of humanity, this active servant of the people, this prince of financiers, this king in commercial life, Rev. H. H. King of Yazoo City, Miss., one of the beacon lights of the race and one of the most serviceable men of the nation.

HIS BIRTHPLACE AND PARENTS.

The worthy subject of this sketch, Rev. Henry Howe King, is a native of the State of Ohio, and was born in Cincinnati, May 3, 1853. He was not only born in a free State, but his parents had gained their freedom in an unusual manner. His father, Mr. Louis L. King, had been a slave in the State of Virginia, but he was conveyed from Culpepper, Virginia, to Cincinnati, Ohio, by the mysterious Underground Railroad when he was very young, and thus was rescued from a life of slavery and transformed into a free man. At the time of that grand meteoric shower in the decade of the 30's, that never-to-be-forgotten time when the stars fell, the subject's mother was liberated, along with many other slaves, by her master on his plantation near Natchez, Miss. This celestial phenomenon of falling stars so terrified the master, who thought that it was the forerunner of the world's destruction, that he liberated all of his slaves.

Having thus become a free woman by the decree of her master, the future mother moved with her parents from the State of Mississippi to the State of Ohio, and located in Cincinnati, where the fates decreed that she should meet her future husband, who, like herself, had been providentially rescued from slavery, though in a far different manner. The two were in course of time married, and the subject of this narrative was the second son of this union.

HIS EDUCATION.

At the age of six years the subject was sent to the Walnut Hill public school of Cincinnati, Ohio, where he remained a pupil from 1859 until 1865. His education was mainly of a rudimentary char-

acter, for it was not his privilege to complete any standard course of study. So far as actual attendance at school is concerned, the majority of people of the present day have enjoyed far better educational advantages than he, but few indeed are the men that are worthy even to be compared with him in the domain of successful achievement. His career has been one of the most astonishing in the annals of the race, and many a college graduate would consider it the acme of success to have accomplished in life the half of what the subject has already accomplished.

The six years of training that he received in the public schools of Cincinnati, Ohio, simply laid the foundation for his marvelous subsequent career. Of course, Rev. King is now a man of matured intellect, for he has taken advantage of the passing years, with their thousands of opportunities for intellectual culture and has thoroughly prepared himself for the exigencies of life. By diligent self-application to study and burning midnight oil, he has become one of the intellectual giants of the race, and he has been signally honored by the great denomination in which he has labored so earnestly and so effectively for one-third of a century. As an humble testimonial of its appreciation for his worth and service to the race Shorter College conferred upon him the honored degree of Doctor of Divinity in the year of 1900.

BACK TO THEIR NATIVE SOUTHLAND.

At the close of the Civil War, the parents of the subject moved back to the South, the land of the race's greatest possibilities, and located at Helena, Arkansas, with their children. At the age of fifteen years the manly and independent spirit of the subject inspired him with the determination to make his own headway in life; with this object in view he shook the dust of his Arkansas home from his feet and turned his adventurous footsteps to the great West, via St. Louis, Mo., and traveled as far as the Rocky Mountains. Finally his taste for exciting adventure having been appeased, he returned to the State of Arkansas, where he assumed the responsible duties of schoolmaster.

A SCHOOLMASTER IN ARKANSAS.

The immortal President of the United States of America, Hon. John Quincy Adams, exhorted every man to keep school for a while, provided the man possessed the required ability, for he thought that no other experience gives a man a clearer insight into human character and better prepares him for the battles of life. The reverend subject may have realized the timeliness of this injunction and resolved to put it to test, for he followed the life of a schoolmaster in

Arkansas from 1878 until 1884. He was a pioneer school teacher in two townships where the hostility to a Negro school teacher was so great that the subject had to go to the school house armed with a shotgun to keep from being molested. Verily is the life of a pioneer beset with hardships and perils in whatever sphere of activity he may be engaged. But the law of compensation is ever in evidence, for the experience that the subject gained in the teachers' profession was the foundation training for his mastery of human character and the achievement of his present great success.

HIS CAREER AS A MINISTER OF THE GOSPEL.

It was while the subject was teaching school in the State of Arkansas that he began his systematic preparation for the ministry. His career in the school room was merely a stepping stone to that calling which is the real and serious work of his life, the ministry of the gospel. He began his career in the ministry in the year of 1879, and was ordained in the traveling connection in the year of 1880. For nearly one-third of a century he has been an aggressive, militant force in the cause of the Master, and has done incalculable good in the moral, intellectual and siritual uplift of his race. He served the Plummersville Mission, 1880-1; Jonesboro Mission, 1882-3; Pinckney Circuit, 1884-5; Augusta Station, 1886-7; Forrest City Station, 1888-9. In the year of 1890 he was appointed Presiding Elder of Monticello District. From 1895 to 1899 he was stationed as pastor in Pine Bluff, Ark. He was also Presiding Elder of the Clarendon, Magnolia and Camden District in Arkansas. While serving in that State he built seventeen churches, remodeled three churches, built three parsonages and received over 3,500 members into the church. In the year of 1902 he was transferred from the Arkansas Conference to the Mississippi Conference, where he is still laboring and where he is doing a grand work for the uplift of his people.

HONORS FROM HIS CHURCH.

The subject has been signally honored by his denomination. For seventeen years he has served as Secretary of Annual Conferences, and he is now filling the honored position of Secretary of the East Mississippi Conference. He has been elected as delegate to three General Conferences, and has served as a Presiding Elder in the A. M. E. Church for over fourteen years, being now Presiding Elder of the Yazoo City District.

THE PRINCE OF BUSINESS MEN.

(a)

PRESIDENT OF PEOPLE'S PENNY SAVINGS BANK.

The subject of this sketch, as has already been stated, was transferred to the Mississippi Conference in 1902, and stationed as pastor in Yazoo City, Miss. Arriving in that city at a time when there was much discussion of the proposition to organize a bank, he entered heartily into the spirit of the undertaking. After many months of discussion, deliberation and labor, the great financial enterprise became a tangible reality. In the month of June, 1905, one hundred persons paid 25 cents each as the foundation fund for raising the necessary fund with which to begin operations. Later on this same invincible number paid 75 cents each, making the first installment of \$500 worth of stock, and pledged themselves to contribute \$1.00 per month for five months until the stock was paid for. The remarkable financial ability of the subject is shown to advantage when he succeeded in raising, single-handed and alone, \$7,000 worth of stock at \$5.00 per share in the short period of five months. In due course of time the charter was secured and signed by Gov. Vardaman, and the ambition of those who had struggled so long was at last realized.

January 1, 1906, was a day of thanksgiving and rejoicing for the promoters of the new bank, for on that memorable day the doors of that institution were thrown open for public patronage. The bank was a phenomenal success from the very first day. The urgent needs of such an institution were so imperative that by the 14th of February, 1906, the bank had loaned out \$5,000. There has been no diminution in the patronage of the people, for each year has witnessed a gratifying increase in the character and volume of its business. The first year of its existence the bank handled \$56,000; the second year, \$95,658; the third year, \$106,078. Each year has witnessed a substantial increase over the preceding year. Since the beginning of the bank's existence it has handled over three-quarters of a million dollars, and has paid four dividends, amounting to 65 cents on the dollar. The successful management of the bank's affairs has fallen mainly upon the willing shoulders of the subject, for he served for years as the bank's Cashier and President, and he is still performing his duties as President. The bank is capitalized at \$30,000, and is considered one of the strongest banks of the race in the Southland. Notwithstanding its youth at the time of the disastrous financial panic, it paid its obligations dollar for dollar, and ran the gauntlet of the financial storm without shifting a single sail of distress. It is well organized, makes money for its stock-

holders, and commands the patronage of the best and most substantial people of the race.

(b)

**CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND TREASURER OF THE
LABORERS' GROCERY COMPANY.**

The energies of the subject are not restricted to the management of the worthy financial institution of which he is President, but they are in evidence in every important business enterprise that has for its object the success and welfare of the race. He is Chairman of the Board of Directors and Treasurer of the Laborers' Grocery Company, a mercantile enterprise that is capitalized at \$10,000, and destined to be one of the most creditable and one of the most successful business enterprises of the race in the State of Mississippi.

(c)

**MANAGER OF FRETONIA REALTY, MERCANTILE AND MANUFACTURING
COMPANY.**

The able subject of this sketch is the inspiring genius behind the successful operations of the Fretonia Realty, Mercantile and Manufacturing Company, a corporation that is capitalized at \$30,000. The name of the company is suggestive of the character of its business. This corporation owns a subdivision of eighty acres of land, known as West Yazoo City Subdivision, and situated just across the Yazoo River. The subdivision is platted and laid off into town lots, with regular avenues and streets. In this subdivision there are in all 365 town lots, four-fifths of which will average 60 feet by 150 feet. Thus it may be seen that the lots in this subdivision are much larger than lots in subdivisions of this character in other cities, and that the promoters of this company had an eye single to the future growth and beauty of this site as a home for the thrifty and progressive element of the race. The price per lot varies from \$100 to \$300, according to size and location, and is thus in reach of all classes and conditions of people. The total valuation of the land in this subdivision is conservatively estimated at \$40,000. From present indications, there seems no doubt that in the course of a few years this subdivision will develop into one of the most desirable and one of the most beautiful sections of the city.

(d)

THE KING UNDERTAKING COMPANY.

Not only has the worthy subject of this sketch a firm and abiding interest in the living, but he is also gravely interested in the dead,

for he is the sole owner and manager of the King Undertaking Company of Yazoo City, Miss., one of the progressive race enterprises of that city. This undertaking company, just as are all other business enterprises under his corruscating genius and able management, is prosperous and a credit to the energies of the race. Its equipment and service are worthy of the extensive patronage that it receives, and it will continue in the future, as it has in the past, to merit the patronage of those in need of its services.

(e)

A STOCKHOLDER AND DIRECTOR IN MANY COMPANIES.

The subject is one of the most successful and one of the most aggressive business men of the race, and a practical demonstration of the truth of this statement is shown in the great number of business enterprises with which he is connected, either as stockholder or director. He is a member of the directorate of the following business enterprises, viz.: The Mound Bayou Oil Mill & Manufacturing Company, the Mississippi Beneficial Life Insurance Company, the Laborers' Grocery Company, and the People's Penny Savings Bank. He owns 100 shares of stock in a Nevada gold mine, 20 shares of stock in an insurance company at Rome, Ga., and 100 shares of stock in the Beaumont Oil Well Company. He is one of the most far-sighted and one of the most successful financiers of the race, and is not afraid to venture his money and encouragement in any worthy enterprise of the race.

PROMINENT IN FRATERNITY CIRCLES.

The affiliation of the subject with nearly all of the fraternal organizations of the race in the State is an evidence of the fact that he is a good mixer [and believes in that power and strength which come as the result of mutual co-operation and union.] He is a thirty-third degree Mason, a Knight of Tabor, a Knight of Pythias, a member of the G. U. O. of O. F., and Custodian of the B. grade, W. O. U.

HIS FAITHFUL, DEVOTED AND CULTURED WIFE.

In the year of 1908 the reverend subject of this sketch proved himself to be a king by winning the hand and heart of Mrs. Lilla C. Carver Roby, a lady of high intellectual attainments and eminently worthy of the ambitious attentions of any man. She is a graduate of the Convent of the Holy Family, and for several years she was a professional school mistress in the States of Louisiana,

Mississippi, Arkansas and Oklahoma. In her domestic circle she reigns both as queen and "King," and there is no one to dispute her authority. She is a most worthy woman, and her devoted husband takes pleasure in acknowledging it to the world.

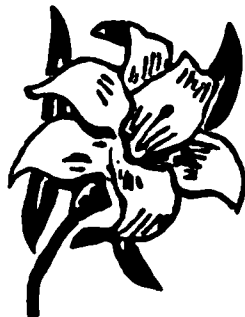
A CULTURED FAMILY.

Not only are Rev. King and wife wealthy in the goods of this world, but they are rich beyond the dreams of avarice in the number and intelligence of their children, there being eight children, equally divided as to sex, to rear, educate and comfort. Mr. Wellington Roby is a graduate of Western University, and is a member of the Ninth Cavalry Band of the United States Army. Two of his sons, Masters Abner and Howe King, are students of Campbell College, Jackson, Miss., one of the best colleges of the A. M. E. Church. One son, Master John Roby, is a pupil in the public schools of Yazoo City. The two boys attending Campbell College are members of the college band, while the eldest son at home plays the violin in the choir of Bethel A. M. E. Church. One of the daughters, Miss Mary Roby, is attending the Convent of the Holy Family, New Orleans, La., and two of the daughters, Misses Electa and Marion King, are students at Morehead Academy. Three of the girls are musical, two of whom perform on the piano and the third on the violincello. Thus it is apparent to all what splendid preparation the subject has made for the education of his children, for in this particular he stands second to none.

THE DOCTOR AS A RACE LEADER.

Dr. King is Past Master of the Ancient and Honorable Order of Doers. He believes in doing things, and in this department of human excellence he has hardly an equal in the ranks of the race. He is, first of all, a minister of the gospel, and for over a third of a century he has consecrated his life to the gospel ministry. For many years he has been one of the ablest leaders in his branch of the Christian Church, and his record of service stands out as a beacon light, blazing forth the path of duty for all men. In addition to being one of the leading ministers of his denomination, he is also one of the most aggressive and one of the most successful business men in the ranks of the race. He is a veritable human motor of energy and progress. He is a man of versatile accomplishments, and can superintend a multitude of business enterprises without slipping a single mental cog. His extraordinary business capacity may be calculated by the multitude of business enterprises with which he is connected, either as stockholder or director. He is identified with

nearly every important business enterprise of the race in the State of Mississippi, not to enumerate those worthy enterprises that are outside of the State. His matchless ability as a business man and financier has been demonstrated in countless instances, and he is considered a welcome addition to the directorate of any enterprise of the race that needs intelligent leadership and business brains. Dr. King is an eminently successful man from whatever standpoint he may be viewed. He has made good in every capacity, and both church and State are proud to do him honor. He has confidence in the possibilities of the race, great capacity for work, optimism and unswerving devotion to the interests of the race. He has dedicated to the race the best energies of his life, and he is still in the race of life to the end. Long live the king, the able, worthy and successful leader of his race, Dr. H. H. King, of Yazoo City, Miss.



S. D. Redmond, A.M., M.D., Jackson, Miss.



ONE of the most striking and one of the most sensational examples of professional and financial success in the great State of Mississippi, or in the whole of the United States, for that matter, is in the case of Dr. Sidney Dillon Redmond, of the capital city of the State of Mississippi. It is true that in fortunate mining investments and in lucky speculative ventures fabulous fortunes have been the reward of the efforts of a few years or a few months; but in the ordinary channels of legitimate business and professional skill there are indeed few men in the State or nation, regardless of race, that have as much in a material way to show for their labors as has the successful physician and sterling business man whose name not only graces this sketch, but is a source of inspiration to thousands of the race, who are ambitious to give a better account of themselves in the material walks of life.

HIS BIRTHPLACE AND PARENTS.

The genial and wealthy doctor is a native of Ebenezer, Holmes County, Miss., and was ushered into existence October 12, 1871. His parents were in the poorest circumstances, and were unable to educate their children. His father having died when his son Sidney was twelve years old, his dear mother moved from the old home place at Ebenezer to Holly Springs, Miss., for the purpose of providing for her children the advantages of education. The mother of the doctor is a most remarkable woman, and she proved equal to the emergency that was caused by the death of her husband, and she exhibited most remarkable ability in pointing out the way for the education of her children. The children were all reared by their mother, Mrs. Esther Redmond, and their respectable and honorable lives form today bright stars in her earthly crown.

HIS EDUCATION.

Passing over the rudimentary training that the doctor received in the common schools of his native county, the main part of his education was received at Rust University, Holly Springs, Miss., from which institution of learning he received his degree of Bachelor of Arts in the year of 1894 and his degree of Master of Arts in the year of 1904. He has a wide reputation as a scholar, and is generally considered to be one of the most erudite men that has ever received a diploma from the collegiate department of Rust University.



DR. S. D. REDMOND

HIS CAREER AS A SCHOOLMASTER.

As an evidence of the esteem in which his scholarship was held by the powers of Rust University, he was called to fill the chair of mathematics in that institution, and served in that capacity for one year after his graduation. At the expiration of that time he was promoted to the principalship of Meridian Academy, Meridian, Miss., which school is one of the principal preparatory centers for Rust University. It was not his intention to follow the profession of teaching, for he had an ambition along a different line. So his career as a schoolmaster came to a close with his resignation from the principalship of Meridian Academy, and he was prepared to enter upon the investigation and study of that profession which was destined to bring him professional success and great financial gain.

OFF TO ILLINOIS MEDICAL COLLEGE.

The ambition of the subject of this sketch was to become one of the great physicians of the country. He was splendidly educated and had a first-class foundation upon which to build a medical education. Having carefully looked over the situation, he selected Illinois Medical College as the institution in which to prosecute his medical studies. He matriculated as a student in Illinois Medical College in the year of 1894, but while there the speculative trend of the mind of the doctor in embryo caused him to venture into an unsuccessful business deal about the end of his second year in college, which caused him to lose every cent of the one thousand dollars which he had saved while teaching for the purpose of completing his education; but undaunted by his misfortune, he borrowed a little money from a friend and betook himself to the Lone Star State, in which, after walking a considerable distance, he found himself a country schoolmaster, bravely struggling to retrieve his lost fortune in order that he might be enabled to re-enter college and complete his medical education. His efforts were crowned with success, and he graduated with honor from that institution September 2, 1897.

BACK TO MISSISSIPPI TO PRACTICE MEDICINE.

After his graduation in 1897, he decided to return to his native State to practice his profession. Carrying this resolution into effect, he arrived in the city of Jackson, Miss., November 15, 1897. It is stated that the doctor rode on the cars into the city of Jackson, but it is not known just how much of the distance between Chicago, Ill., and Jackson, Miss., he negotiated with his pedal extremities. Certain is it that the future great financier of the race made his

advent into the city of Jackson without any encumbrance in the shape of money and with no burden except a faded gripsack and a choice assortment of ancient debts. The wealth of the doctor was in his masterful intellect and not in his pocket when he made his professional debut in the city of Jackson.

HIGH HONORS BEFORE THE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS.

He passed with flying colors the rigid examination of the medical board of examiners of the State of Mississippi, and it is said that the Board of Examiners gave him the honor of having passed the best examination of the two hundred and fifty (250) applicants that were present at that time, and one of the best in the history of the State, irrespective of race.

POST GRADUATE COURSE IN HARVARD MEDICAL COLLEGE.

After practicing his profession in the city of his choice for a season, he went to Boston, Mass., and pursued a post graduate course in medicine at Harvard Medical College. He is one of the best prepared physicians in the medical profession, and his opinions have the weight of authority among his fellow practitioners. He is a specialist in surgery, and has relieved patients from many different sections of the country. He has always had a great practice in the city of Jackson and its environs, and his phenomenal success has been the medium through which he has become probably the wealthiest colored man in the State of Mississippi.

HIS BUSINESS INVESTMENTS.

That the doctor is a capital business man is evident from the various business enterprises with which he is connected. He was one of the organizers of the American Savings Bank & Trust Company of Jackson, Miss., and for five years he filled the responsible position of President of that institution, or until 1909, when the stress of professional business compelled his resignation. He is not only a prominent stockholder in the bank of which he was formerly President, but he is a stockholder of the Union Savings Bank of Jackson, and also a stockholder of the Merchants Bank & Trust Company of the same city. He also owns stock in the Capital Light & Power Company and the Citizens Savings Bank & Trust Company of Jackson.

THE OWNER OF OVER ONE HUNDRED HOUSES.

It is believed by many people who are in position to know, that Dr. Sidney Dillon Redmond is the owner of more city property than

any other colored man in the State of Mississippi. However doubtful this statement may be, the writer is certain of the fact that the doctor is the owner of more than one hundred houses in the city of Jackson, among which are some of the most substantial and most pretentious buildings in the city. He owns business blocks in the center of the city's business section. In addition to several two-story frame business houses, he owns a two-story brick office building of the most modern construction, and with every modern convenience, several one-story brick stores, a three-story brick building, and one four-story brick building, "The Roof Temple Theater," one of the handsomest structures in Jackson, Miss. Of course, it is largely a matter of speculation as to any man's wealth, but it is a safe and sane proposition to estimate the wealth of the doctor to be way up in six figures. He is one of the financial marvels of the times, and bids fair in course of time to be the richest colored man in America.

THE OWNER OF TWO DRUG STORES.

The doctor is the owner of two of the largest drug stores in the city of Jackson. One of them is located on the principal street of the city, and the doctor is the only colored man that either owns property or does business on Main street in the city of Jackson.

POLITICAL HONORS.

The doctor has been active in the exercise of his political rights, and has done much for the cause of Republican success. He has served as Chairman of the Republican County Executive Committee and he is now Chairman of the Republican State Committee. He has been a delegate to every National Republican Convention since the year of 1896, inclusive.

HIS ESTIMABLE AND ACCOMPLISHED WIFE.

In the year of 1894 the doctor was fortunate enough to win the heart and hand of one of the truest and one of the best women in the State of Mississippi. She was a Miss Ida Alcorn Revels, of Holly Springs, Miss., the talented daughter of ex-United States Senator H. S. Revels of the State of Mississippi. Mrs. Redmond is a graduate of the academic department of Rust University, and taught for a year as assistant to her husband when he was at the head of Meridian Academy. She is an excellent pianist and a talented woman on general principles. She is an ideal wife, and her encouragement and wise counsel have been invaluable to the doctor

in making his successful career a possibility. Two children have been born to the doctor and his estimable wife, Miss Esther, to be the belle of the family, and Master Sidney Dillon Redmond, to carry on to honor and renown the family name.

NOT BORN WITH A SILVER SPOON.

To the everlasting credit of Dr. S. D. Redmond, it may be stated that not only did he work his own way through school, but that during his vacations he worked and earned enough money with which to support and educate the entire family. He has truly been the architect of his own fortune, and in this respect his life should be an inspiration to the whole race. The doctor is undoubtedly a great man, for he has already accomplished great things.



Hon. J. E. Bush, Little Rock, Arkansas.

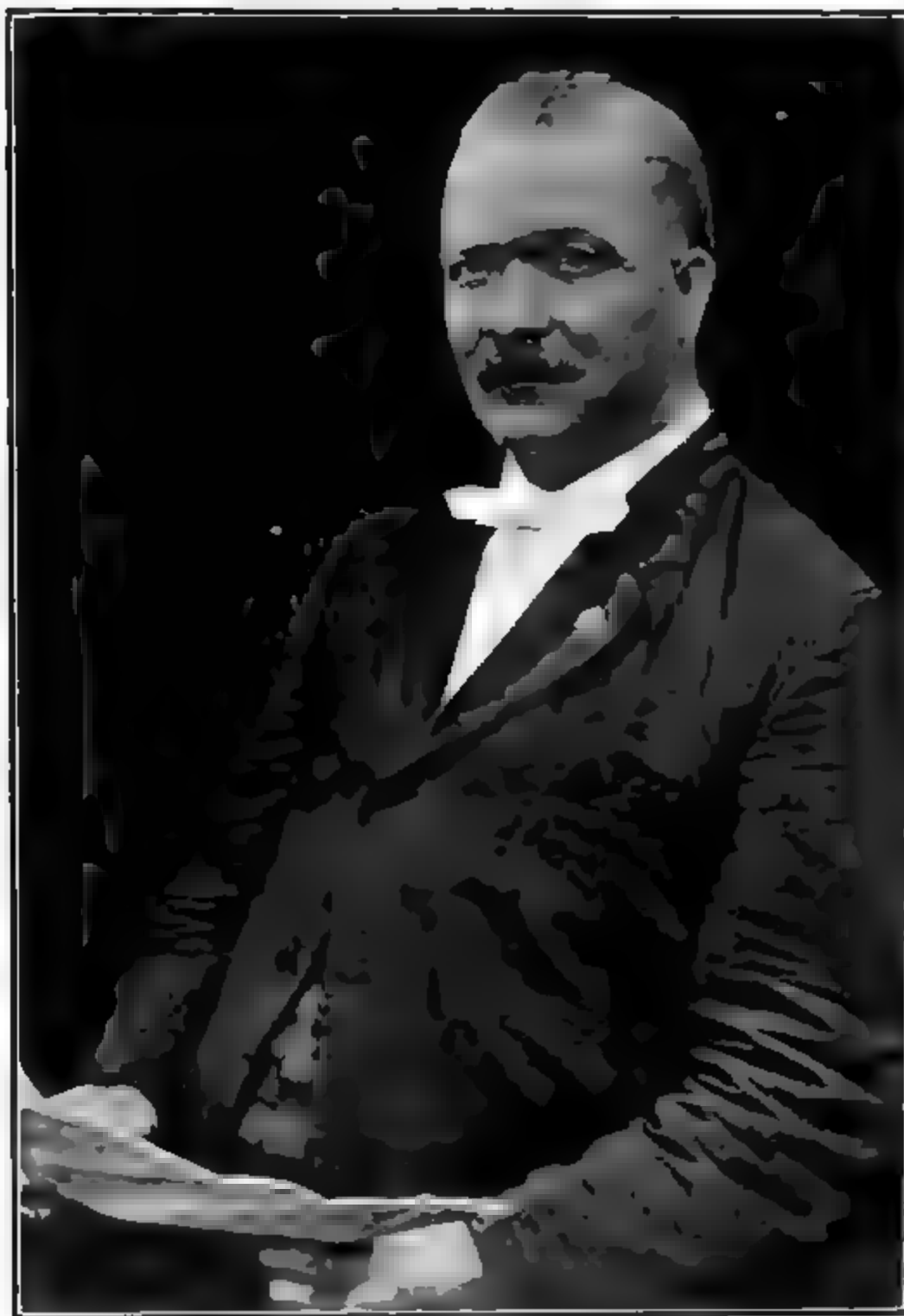
RECEIVER OF THE UNITED STATES LAND OFFICE AT LITTLE ROCK,
ARKANSAS, ALSO NATIONAL GRAND SCRIBE OF THE
MOSAIC TEMPLARS OF AMERICA AND FOUNDER.



THE name of the honored subject of this sketch is a synonym for everything that is progressive and uplifting to the Negro race, not only in the State of Arkansas, but wherever the race is found in this country. So thoroughly is his name identified with the development, growth and progress of the race in the State of Arkansas, and so completely has it stimulated and dominated the progressive spirit of the race that it is only with the greatest of difficulty that the minds of the people of his State can be readjusted to the fact that Mr. Bush is not a native of the State of Arkansas, whose citizens have conferred upon him so much of merited honor and lasting fame. He is a native of the grand old Volunteer State of Tennessee, and first saw the light of day at Moscow in the western section of Tennessee in the year of 1858. In the year of 1862 his parents emigrated to the State of Arkansas and carried with them their infant son to grow up to man's estate in the virgin region of the setting sun. Stirring days were they in the early youth of the subject of this sketch, for the ravages of the fratricidal war of four years had desolated and impoverished the South, and not even the white youth of the South had any other legacy than hard work or misery and starvation. Such a condition was calculated to develop the moral strength in any person, and it was in this severe and rigid school of experience that Mr. Bush received his first training.

HIS EDUCATION.

As his parents had emigrated to the State of Arkansas when he was a child, the main part of his education was gained in the schools of his adopted State. He attended and graduated from the public schools of Little Rock. While a student at school he showed that same spirit of independence and self-reliance that has characterized him all through life. He made his own way through school by hard and unremitting labor. With him work has ever been one of the set principles of his life, and the severe discipline of his early life has been invaluable to him in his subsequent struggles to reach the goal of success. The education that is handed on a silver platter to a boy is the one that ordinarily will do him the least good, but if he



HON. J. E. BUSH

must struggle to gain his education, the effort will develop not only his mental powers, but his moral powers as well. Therefore, it was to be expected that Mr. Bush would make the best possible use of his educational advantages. His naturally bright mind needed only to be led in the proper channel for him to render a good account of himself. He has a two-fold education, one resulting from many years of contact with books and the other resulting from contact with the experiences of the world. Each one supplements the other, and a man must have the benefit of both in order to be considered a well-rounded, cultivated man. His mind has a depth of power and culture that the mere routine of books and scholastic training can not give, for after all, the greatest school in the world is the school of experience, and the greatest university is the broad, busy and strenuous outside world.

HIS CAREER AS A SCHOOLMASTER IN ARKANSAS.

After he had graduated from the public schools of Little Rock, Arkansas, he at once began that splendid career of service and usefulness to his race to which his friends point with such great pride. He took up the responsibilities of a schoolmaster. He saw the necessity of education for the masses of the race, and he resolved to do what he could in the effort for the uplift of his benighted people. His actual experience in the school room was not of great duration, but whether in or out of the school room, he has ever been a consistent friend of the cause of popular education. As a prominent business man outside of the school room he has been in position to do even more for the public school system of his State than he ever could have done in a teaching capacity. He was for two years principal of the Capital Hill City School of Little Rock, Arkansas, after which time he served in a similar capacity in the public schools of Hot Springs, Ark. While the writer can only speculate as to the character of the work of Mr. Bush in the school room, yet there can be no reasonable doubt that in the school room he gave an exhibition of that ability which has characterized his subsequent career in everything that he has attempted. He has a genius for administration, and this peculiar ability would have made him one of the ornaments of the teachers' profession if he had elected to continue in pedagogical harness.

HIS POLITICAL CAREER.

The political experience of Mr. Bush began shortly after he had reached his majority. He took as naturally to politics as the soaring eagle to his eyrie on the mountain top. In the year of 1884 he

received his first political honor of consequence. He was nominated by the Greenback party for the office of County Clerk of Pulaski County. The nomination was tendered to him because of his known popularity, rather than because of his political persuasion. There is method even in the madness of politicians, and in order to win they will often enlist under their standards and nominate for positions of trust men that are not particularly identified with the party. In those days the so-called Greenback party had made considerable headway against the two dominant parties, just as the Populistic party subsequently did; but the love and loyalty of Mr. Bush for the grand old Republican party would not permit him to remain the standard bearer of the party which had honored him with its nomination. So he respectfully resigned the nomination in the interest of the Republican candidate, who was elected by an overwhelming majority. His fidelity to the principles and interests of the Republican party has been tested in every possible manner. He has fought many battles for the triumph of Republican principles and the success of the Republican party. His loyalty to the party and his great ability have been highly recognized by the leaders of the party for a generation, and there is not a man in the State of Arkansas, be he white or black, that enjoys greater political prestige with the powers that be than he does. The recent years have witnessed some very startling changes in the attitude of the white Republicans toward their heretofore political brothers in black. In obedience to the desire to eliminate the Negro from political influence in the Southland, the white element of the party in the South seem committed to the policy of wresting by any sort of machination the power that has heretofore been the just inheritance of the more populous and dominant Negro element of the party. The white Republicans have in most of the Southern States cut loose from all previous understandings and alliances with their political brothers in black, and have taken control of the machinery and management of the Republican party. In the State of Arkansas the same sentiment exists as to the elimination of the Negro vote from the domination of the Republican party, and most of the old stalwart leaders and war horses of the party have been thrown overboard and consigned to the political Dead Sea, never to rise to influence and power again. But in the State of Arkansas there is one conspicuous exception, and that is in the case of Hon. J. E. Bush, the real leader of the Republican party in the State of Arkansas. He is not only the recognized head of the Republican party in the State of Arkansas, but he is powerful in national politics as well. He has labored indefatigably for the welfare of the party, and has been loyal to its interests in the darkest hours of defeat. His voice in clarion tones has ever sounded the notes of fidelity to the party, and he is

well entitled to every honor that has ever been conferred upon himself. Of the many able and faithful colored men that used to be most prominent in the councils of the party, Mr. Bush seems to be the only one whose status has not changed. He is the only colored man that is recognized as a political peer by the dominant white Republicans of the State. Administrations may come and administrations may go, but, like Tennyson's brook, the political career of Mr. Bush goes on forever.

HIS OFFICIAL CAREER.

In the year of 1875 Mr. Bush was honored with appointment to a position as postal clerk in the Railway Mail Service of the State of Arkansas. In the performance of the duties incident to his new position he exhibited those sterling qualities of capability, energy and fidelity to duty which always count heavily in a man's favor, irrespective as to his service in either a public or private capacity. In the postal service he ranked second to none in efficiency, and to such an extent was his efficiency recognized that he was recommended by the Republican State Central Committee for the chief clerkship of the division. An endorsement of that character was a high tribute to his status, not only as a postal clerk, but as a worthy man and citizen. In the history of the postal service in the State he was the only colored man that was ever officially recommended for such an exalted position. Mr. Bush has always endeavored to prepare himself for efficient service in whatever field of activity he has entered, and because of the fact that he has always measured up to every required standard, he has had the manliness to demand recognition and contend for his rights as a citizen. He has never slept on his rights, political or civil. He was not appointed to the chief clerkship for which he was recommended, but the probability of his ultimate success in gaining the coveted honor had much to do with the abolition of the office from the postal service.

In the year of 1898 he was appointed by President McKinley to the exalted position of Receiver of the United States Land Office at Little Rock, Arkansas. In many respects this appointment was one of the highest political honors that had ever been conferred upon a colored citizen of the State. He is now serving his fourth presidential term as Receiver of the United States Land Office, which is the record in the State of Arkansas for length of service in a Federal office of such great prominence and dignity. As Receiver of the Land Office he has one of the most important positions in the gift of the government, and the emoluments of the office are commensurate with his responsibilities. In his official capacity he exercises both executive and judicial discretion. As a rule, he is

the final adjudicator in all matters pertaining to the public lands in his district. That he has faithfully and ably discharged the duties of his office is evident from the extraordinary length of time that he has served.

It may be asked, why was Mr. Bush appointed to such an exalted office by the President of the United States? The reason why is readily obvious to those who are conversant with the political history of the State of Arkansas since the decade of the 80's. Mr. Bush has enjoyed the distinction of being one of the leaders of the Republican party of the State of Arkansas since the days of his early manhood, and the high office which he so creditably and so ably fills is but a fitting reward for his valiant and faithful services for the party. While the salary of his office is lucrative, yet for a man of his great wealth the salary consideration can not be the sole incentive for his long continuation in public office, for with his entire time devoted to his enormous properties and other vast interests he can easily quadruple his earnings in the course of a year. This being the case, he is really holding his high office at a great financial sacrifice. If he had followed his own personal inclinations he would have resigned the duties of his office long ere this time; but in our relations with our fellow men it is not our own inclinations and interests that are always to be considered. Political expediency is to be considered, also racial considerations should not be overlooked. According to the signs of the times, the days of the colored man as a prominent political factor in the councils of either of the two old parties in the South are numbered. The writer has not the gift of political prophecy, but all present indications point to the wholesale elimination of qualified colored men from positions of prominence in public service in the South. The expressed policy of the present Chief Magistrate of the nation is to restrict the appointment of colored officials to sections of the country where the citizens that would be most concerned are not so hostile to their appointment. It is most probable that consideration for the future political welfare of the race has influenced Mr. Bush to continue indefinitely in office to forestall as long as possible the inevitable loss that the race will sustain when his official mantle will have fallen off his shoulders, for there is no other colored man in the State that can hope to be his successor in these critical political days of the race. Too great credit can not be given to the thorough race man who has been willing to sacrifice his own financial interests for the political welfare of his race.

THE FOUNDER OF THE MOSAIC TEMPLARS OF AMERICA.

That Mr. Bush has an original mind and great administrative ability is evident not only in his capacity as a public official in the

service of the United States government, but in his capacity as the founder of one of the greatest fraternal organizations of the race. On the 22d of June, 1882, Mr. J. E. Bush, in connection with Mr. C. W. Keatts, founded and organized the National Order of the Mosaic Templars of America. Now, the mere founding of a fraternal organization is not in itself a matter difficult of achievement, but to organize a fraternity of the class and character of the Mosaic Templars of America and build it up to the present colossal proportions of the order requires brains, foresight, ceaseless energy, marvelous executive ability and all of the fundamental qualities that command success. If these two gentlemen had done nothing else in life but found the organization that is now known and honored throughout the land, they would still have succeeded in erecting a monument that would have made their names immortal. At the time when the National Order of the Mosaic Templars of America was organized fraternities among the race were generally in their infancy, with the exception of the Masons, Odd Fellows and a few others. Therefore, the founders of this organization were pioneers, and had to blaze their way through opposition, ignorance, prejudice, suspicion and superstition in order to lay the fraternity on an enduring foundation.

THE GENERAL OBJECTS OF THE ORDER.

The general objects of the order may be classified as follows:

1. To unite fraternally all persons of Negro descent of good moral character, of every profession, business and occupation.
2. To give all possible moral and material aid to members of Mosaic Templars by holding instructive and scientific lectures, by encouraging each other in business, and assisting each other to obtain employment, but not to interfere with the political or religious opinions of any of its members.
3. To establish and maintain a benefit fund, from which any sum, not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500), and not less than fifty dollars (\$50) shall be paid to the member, or to his family, or to any one whom he or she may direct.
4. The general power of said corporation shall be to sue and be sued by the corporate name; to have and use a common seal, which it may change at pleasure, or if it has no seal, the signature of the name of the corporation by any duly authorized officer will be legal and binding; to purchase and hold, or receive by gift, bequest or devise, in addition to the personal property owned by the corporation, real estate necessary for the transaction of the corporate business; and also to purchase and accept any real estate in part pay-

ment of any debt due the corporation, or to sell the same; to establish by-laws, and to make all rules and regulations not inconsistent with the laws of the land, deemed expedient for the management of corporate affairs; to charter subordinate temples and chambers; to make its own constitution, laws, discipline and general laws for the government of the entire order in America; to fix the compensation of its officers and to do whatever may be necessary for the government of the Grand and Subordinate Temples, not in conflict with the laws of the United States, or any laws of the States of the United States, and not in conflict with the object and powers of this charter.

GROWTH AND EXTENT OF THE ORDER.

From a mere handful of men as a nucleus in the year of 1882, when the organization was first founded, it has, by the persistent dissemination of its principles and its faithful adherence to the same, made a numerical progress that is truly astounding. From an unborn and unknown organization in the year of 1882, it has become one of the commanding Negro fraternities, not only of the United States, but of the present century. From its original founders and incorporators in the year of 1882, it has grown to the stupendous number of sixty-five thousand (65,000) members. Originally beginning in one State of the Federal Union, it has branched out in its operations and beneficence until it is now firmly entrenched in popular favor in eighteen (18) different States.

For the whole period of its organization it has added to its membership an average of nearly two thousand five hundred (2,500) souls annually. This growth is nearly unprecedented in the history of organizations of its character, and is one of the best evidences of its worth and progressiveness.

THE ENDOWMENT POLICIES OF THE ORDER.

In the organization that is known as the National Order of the Mosaic Templars of America, there are two kinds of endowment policies in force. One is known as the General Policy, which is carried by all members of the order, and provides for the beneficiary a sum not more than three hundred dollars (\$300) at the death of a member. The other is a Special Policy, that is issued at the pleasure of the organization, and entitles the beneficiary to a sum not exceeding five hundred dollars (\$500). The two policies that are issued by this organization are as liberal in their beneficence as the generality of fraternal organizations issue to its members. The fact is, very few of the other orders actually pay as much as this order. The sum of three hundred dollars (\$300) or five hundred dollars

(\$500) is a consideration that will make a poor person in the time of bereavement rich beyond the dream of avarice.

THE SURPLUS OF THE ORDER.

Not only has the order promptly paid all of its obligations within the constitutional limit of time, but it has accumulated for the order a surplus of sixteen thousand dollars (\$16,000). Since the order began its operations it has paid out to the beneficiaries of its policyholders the stupendous sum of over a quarter of a million dollars. Notwithstanding this enormous outlay to the representatives of the policyholders and the present gigantic surplus on hand, the order has the proud distinction of not owing a cent to any one. This is one of the most creditable records in the history of fraternal organizations. In providing a surplus of sixteen thousand dollars (\$16,000) the order is simply pursuing the same business-like principles for which it has always been noted, and which all first-class corporations, whether business or fraternal, strive to accumulate for emergencies in adverse times. "Business is business." This guiding principle has been the watchword of the order since its inception, and has brought it to its present proud position among the reputable fraternities of the land.

THE NATIONAL GRAND SCRIBE OF THE MOSAIC TEMPLARS OF AMERICA.

The worthy subject of this sketch is National Grand Scribe of the order of which he is one of the founders. His duties as laid down in the constitution are very responsible, and really make him the fifth wheel of the order. Among some of his numerous duties he is required to keep a correct report of the proceedings of the Grand Temple and the National Committee of Management; to read all reports, communications, petitions, etc., and attest all orders drawn on the National Grand Treasurer; to affix the seal to all documents when necessary; to prepare the annual and other reports for publication; to draw an order on the National Grand Treasurer within ninety days after the proof of the death of a member and forward the same to the Scribe of the Subordinate Temple of which the deceased was a member; to have charge of the seal, books and papers belonging to the Grand Temple; keep a true and correct account between the Grand Temple and Subordinate Temples, and at each session of the Grand Temple make a full and correct statement of all moneys received and disbursed during the year; to receive all moneys due the Grand Temple, and perform such duties as the law and usages of the order may require. His duties are of

such a responsible character as to require the constant employment of several bookkeepers and clerks. He is authorized by the constitution to maintain his office in the city of Little Rock, Arkansas. In connection with the work of the order is the publication of the *Mosaic Guide*, the official publication of the fraternity. It is well edited, newsy and has a wide and influential circulation.

CLASS AND CHARACTER OF ITS MEMBERS.

The National Order of Mosaic Templars of America is not in any respect an inferior organization. Not only are its principles in harmony with the best thought of the century along economic, moral and business lines, but its members come from the best and most representative people of the race. It has not made ignorance a prerequisite for membership, but it has sought the association, benefit and counsel of intelligent men and women. An organization that can not bear the investigation and light of intelligent people is not worthy of the confidence and support of any people, be they intelligent or otherwise. Among the members of this order in the State of Arkansas and in other States are men of the greatest ability and highest integrity. Dr. E. C. Morris, President of the National Baptist Convention, and the peer of any other colored man in this country, is an honored member of this fraternity. Dr. Booker T. Washington, the Sage of Tuskegee, and his distinguished private secretary, Prof. E. J. Scott, are also members of this organization. Nothing more is needed to show the status of this organization in the estimation of men that are capable of judging, for such eminent men and representative citizens would not be connected with any organization that does not stand for progress along all worthy lines.

THE FAMILY OF HON. J. E. BUSH.

That Mr. Bush has never desired to shirk any of the responsibilities that are incident to his status as a moral and social being, is evidenced by the fact that he entered the holy state of matrimony by the time he had reached his majority. In the fateful year of 1879, blessed with so many tender and loving memories, he wooed, won the heart of and led to the sacred altar Miss Cora Winfrey, the charming and accomplished daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Solomon Winfrey, of Little Rock, Arkansas. Mrs. Bush has always resided in the city of Little Rock, and has ever been conspicuously identified with the social life of her native city. She has encouraged and stimulated her husband to strive to do his best in the struggles of life, and she has been untiring in her efforts to gain success for her

husband in every field of activity that fortune has decreed for him to labor in. She and her husband have given their children the blessings of a good education to prepare them for the duties of life, and both of them have done their full duty to those whom benign Providence has committed to their care. Three children survive to gladden their parents' pathway and crown their golden, autumnal days with sunshine and happiness.

THE WEALTH OF HON. J. E. BUSH.

The wealth of the average individual is more a matter of speculation than of absolute knowledge, but the consensus of opinion of people that are in position to know and to judge is that the subject of this sketch is one of the wealthiest colored men in the State of Arkansas, if not the wealthiest. Certainly, he is now rated as probably the wealthiest colored citizen of Little Rock. It takes time for a man to amass riches. It also requires some degree of activity and shrewdness. Mr. Bush had the foresight to begin early to lay by something for the proverbial rainy day. He began in the palmy days of the race's opportunities to lay the foundation for his present unusual fortune. In the city of Little Rock alone he is the largest colored holder of realty. He is said to own one hundred and twenty pieces of improved property in his home city. He also has a deal of unimproved property in the same city. He has property scattered all over the city of Little Rock, and some of it is of the most substantial character. Just ten miles from the city of Little Rock he owns eighty acres of valuable farm land, for which he recently refused the attractive offer of \$500 per acre, or a total offer of forty thousand dollars (\$40,000). The policy of Mr. Bush has been to accumulate more property instead of disposing of that which he has. The income from his properties alone would be considered a great fortune for an ordinary man. While his salary as a high government official is splendid, yet it is a mere bagatelle in comparison with the handsome income that is derived from his various properties in the city of Little Rock and elsewhere. By people that are in absolute knowledge of his financial affairs, Mr. Bush's fortune is conservatively estimated at one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000). This colossal fortune would be a grand financial triumph for any white man blessed with every possible opportunity with which only a white man in this country can be blessed. How much more complimentary and creditable it is to a member of the despised Negro race, practically born a slave and possessed of no other opportunity except to labor in the sweat of his own brow and work out his own destiny in the providence of God.



RESIDENCE OF J. E. BUSH


HIS PALATIAL HOME.

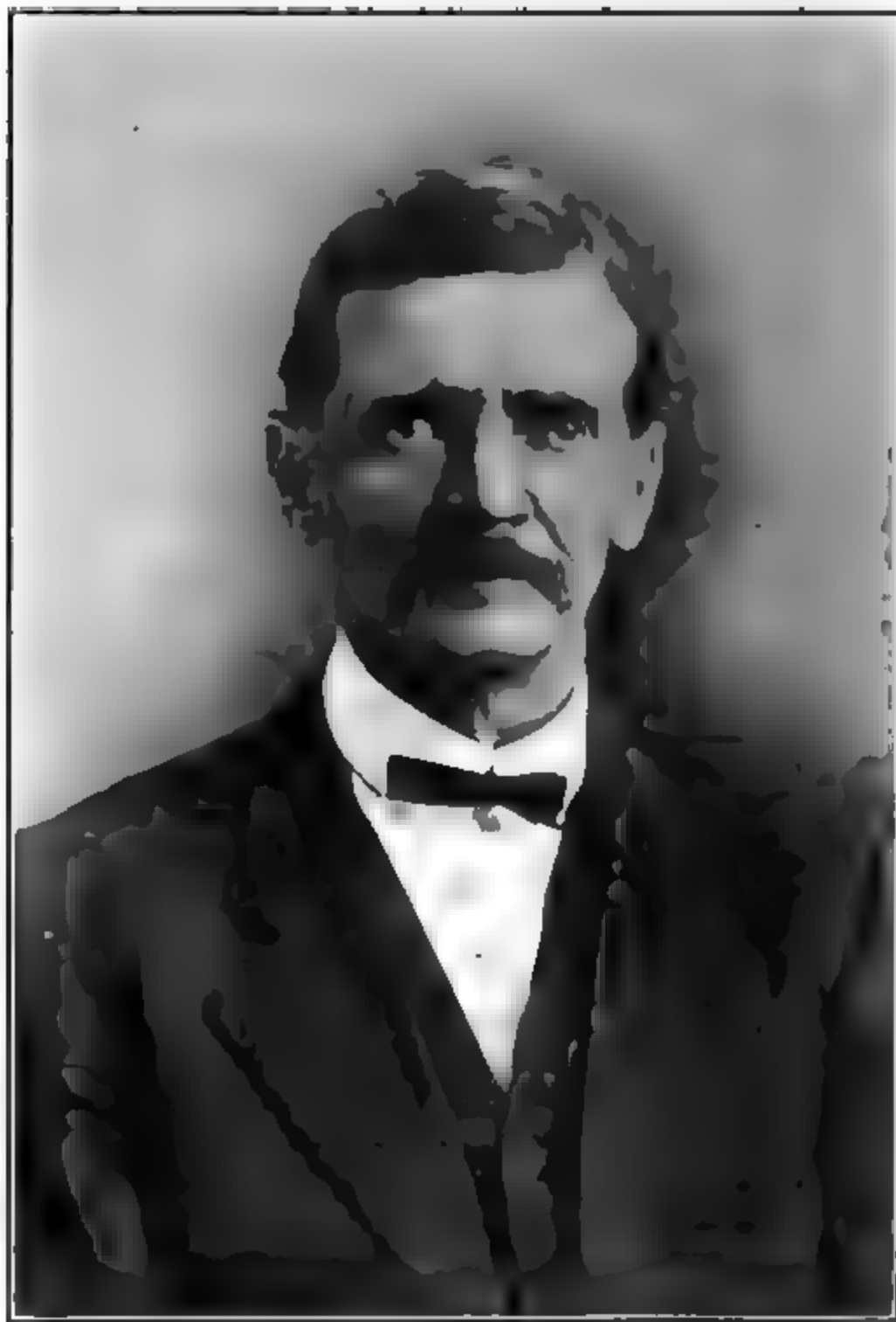
There is no other love more appreciative, yearning and sacred than the love of home. The sacred ties that bind us to home are none the less binding, be that home a lowly hut or lordly mansion. But the writer is to narrate a few facts about the most palatial home in the city of Little Rock that is owned by a colored man. Hon. J. E. Bush's residence is not only the finest residence of his race in the city of Little Rock, but it is the most magnificent residence in the State. It is the good fortune of very few colored people in this country to own in their own right such a pretentious and substantial home as does Mr. Bush. It is located at the intersection of Sixteenth and Chester streets, is one and one-half stories high, and contains fourteen rooms. It is baronial in its dimensions and suitable for the needs of the majority of reasonable men. Its arrangement is such as to satisfy the taste of the most fastidious and the desires of the most ambitious. In its construction are combined solid comfort, elegance and luxury. The final cost of his palatial residence will approximate ten thousand dollars (\$10,000). The residence of Mr. Bush is the cynosure of all eyes in the Rose City, and no visitor to the city of Little Rock can be said to have seen

the city unless he has beheld the baronial mansion of Hon. J. E. Bush. Of that home there can be said one thing that is indisputable and that is that there is no other woman that can preside with more queenly grace over such a home than its accomplished mistress, Madame J. E. Bush. Living in an elegant home is no novelty for her, and in her new home she is only the better able to show her accomplishments to better advantage.

HON. J. E. BUSH A RACE LEADER.

Mr. Bush is the leader of the Republican party in the State of Arkansas, and there is no one to question his supremacy in the domain of either State or national politics. There are veterans in the Republican party whose heads have grown hoary in the service of the party, but there is no other member of the party that has a greater claim on the party for services rendered than he. As a member of the Republican State Executive Committee, for years he has been in close touch with the life of the party and in position to shape its principles and policies. He is a member of the Executive Committee of the National Negro Business League and a powerful factor in the deliberations of that body of distinguished men. His success as a high-class politician has been largely due to the fact that he is also a high-class business man. He is also an orator of peculiar force and ability. There are a breadth of thought and a profundity of reason in his oratorical efforts that raise them far above the reach of the commonplace orators, with which the rostrums and platforms teem. The glittering generalities and lofty platitudes of the average orator find no place in his discourses. He is a keen judge of human nature, and can not easily be imposed upon. He is an adroit and experienced politician, and can play the game of political chess with any man in the State. He has taken an active part in public affairs since the days of his early manhood, and there is not a man in the State that has profited more than he has from the experience and training. Among all classes of citizens in his home city he is a man of high standing and great influence. His personal wishes with the white citizens of his town are often of greater weight than a battalion of lesser lights of the race. He is a race leader because there are in his character all the elements that can command success. In the battle of life he has been a valiant commander and has led his cohorts to victory in nearly every conflict. His honored name is Bush, and he is a veritable burning Bush that furnishes to his benighted race a light to lead it from the darkness of ignorance, superstition and poverty into the broad sunlight of peace, prosperity and happiness. The name of Bush stands for leadership, wealth and honor in the State of Arkansas, and it would be a great compliment to any man of any race to command the same degree of respect and honor.





SCOTT BOND

Scott Bond, Madison, Ark.

PLANTER, COTTON BUYER AND MERCHANT.



THAT the achievement of success does not depend upon the accident of birth, the color of the skin, or the advantages of education, has been demonstrated in countless instances in the ranks of all the races of mankind, but it has been left by an all-wise Providence to the Negro race in the American Southland to present to the world one of its most extraordinary and one of its most astonishing examples of success in the person of Mr. Scott Bond, of Madison, Arkansas, who, though born a slave, has already risen to sublimer heights in the world of success than millions of the dominant race who were blessed with a thousand years of freedom and opportunity to make the most of life. The teeming centuries on the wings of time will come and go, bringing to the world glad tidings of success, but few indeed will be the men that will, like the subject of this sketch, make a name and fame among their fellow countrymen that will be heard around the world.

HIS BIRTHPLACE.

Mr. Scott Bond is a native of the State of Mississippi, and was born a slave near Livingstone, Madison County, March 15, 1852. He was brought away from his native State to the State of Tennessee when he was only an infant eighteen months old, and remained there until the year of 1861, when his owners moved with him to the State of Arkansas, in which he has resided ever since.

THE JOY BELLS OF FREEDOM RING.

When the bells of freedom sent forth their joyful peals throughout the land,

“Ringing out the old, ringing in the new,
Ringing out the false, ringing in the true,”

the subject of this sketch was a mere youth of thirteen years. Living in a virgin country, and subjected to the struggles and hardships of pioneer life, there was much in that life to develop and make rugged his character and lay the foundation for his grand success in after life. The turning point in his life came in his twenty-fifth year with his marriage to the dear and loving wife whose faithfulness for over a third of a century has been the one grand inspiration of his life. If the name of Mr. Scott Bond stands for anything

of worth, respect and esteem among his fellow citizens, it is largely due to the encouragement, sacrifices and fidelity of his dear and devoted wife.

STARTING OUT TO CLIMB.

At the time of his marriage to Miss Magnolia Nash, of Magnolia Springs, Virginia, in the year of 1877, Mr. Bond and his dear wife had but little more than a broken skillet and a few primitive furnishings for their little log cabin. Those were the days that really tested the ingenuity and resourcefulness of a wife, but Mrs. Magnolia Bond proved that she was equal to every emergency. Too poor to purchase for themselves an ordinary mattress for their comfort, it was the wife's resourcefulness that made her rip up coffee sacks and stuff them with hay, after they had been sewed together, for the purpose of serving the comfort of a real mattress. After his marriage he worked on shares for a while and then began to rent his land. He was very ambitious as a farmer, and rented considerable land, so that the amount that was paid by him for rent yearly amounted to a large sum of money. He rented until in some mysterious manner it dawned upon his unthinking mind that if he could work and make such a great sum of money with which to pay rent to somebody else, surely he might as well work and earn money for the purpose of buying land for himself. Finally he invested money in his first purchase of a farm, and in the course of time he succeeded, with the encouragement and assistance of his wife, in paying for his first farm.

CLIMBING HIGHER AND HIGHER.

After Mr. Bond had been successful in sacrificing and paying for his first farm, he became more and more ambitious to rise in life and own other farms. Gradually this determination to own more land became the passion of his life, and the result was that he succeeded in purchasing a new farm every year or so until he is now the owner of twenty different farms, with a total of more than four thousand acres. It is now the confirmed policy of Mr. Bond to buy at least one farm every year, and in this laudable ambition he has the faithful co-operation of his energetic sons. He is now the colored land king of the South, and his broad and fertile acres remind one of the lordly estates of the mighty barons of mediaeval times.

THE LARGEST INDIVIDUAL COLORED PLANTER IN THE WORLD.

The subject of this sketch is the owner of four thousand acres of land in the basin of the St. Francis River. The land is alluvial,

and is noted for its wonderful fertility. In productive capacity it can hardly be surpassed on the American continent, one acre of it in a good crop year producing from a bale to a bale and a half of cotton. Thus this land is almost of fabulous value, and much of it can not be purchased at any price. At a reasonably conservative valuation the four thousand fertile acres of Mr. Bond ought to be worth fully \$300,000. In order that its great value be fully realized, it is only necessary to state that if all of his fertile acres were in actual cultivation and should produce an even bale to the acre, worth \$75 per bale, he would receive an annual income of \$300,000. Therefore, the estimated value of Mr. Bond's fertile acres is in excess of \$300,000, rather than under that sum. So far as records are available for comparison, Mr. Bond is easily the largest individual planter of the colored race in the world. He is the land king of the South, and there is no one to contest his well-earned supremacy.

THE LARGEST COLORED RENTER IN THE ST. FRANCIS BASIN.

Not only has Mr. Bond the unique distinction of being the largest individual colored land owner and planter in the State of Arkansas, but he is also the largest renter of farming land in the South. He rents four thousand acres of alluvial land in the St. Francis River Basin, and he is in the market to rent just as many more acres as will be available for the purpose. The sum total that he pays for rent alone is in excess of \$30,000 annually.

A MULTITUDE OF SHARE FARMERS.

The eight thousand acres of land that Mr. Bond cultivates require a multitude of share farmers, and it is estimated that nearly four hundred families are employed in the cultivation of his lands. This host of tillers of the soil is supplied with the necessities of life from the great mercantile establishment of Mr. Bond, and at least one thousand bales of cotton are annually paid on accounts to Mr. Bond by these tenants. Few of the mighty barons of mediaeval times had a greater number of people dependent upon their assistance and generosity.

THE OWNER OF A LARGE GRAVEL PIT.

That Mr. Bond has a firm hold on the earth and the fullness thereof is shown in the fact that he is the owner of one of the largest gravel pits in the State of Arkansas. His gravel pit is one and three-fourths miles in length, and is located contiguous to the

right of way of the Rock Island Railroad. This great railroad corporation was quick to perceive the advantage of the proximity of this large and inexhaustible supply of gravel, and consequently entered into a contract with Mr. Bond to furnish this great railroad with all the gravel that it may need on its right of way for several hundred miles. This immense gravel pit is no insignificant source of wealth, and shows a beautiful example of how nature herself sometimes conspires to make a deserving man rich beyond the dream of avarice.

HAS ONE OF THE LARGEST ORCHARDS IN EASTERN ARKANSAS.

That Mr. Bond believes in doing everything on a colossal scale is demonstrated in the case of his magnificent orchard, which is one of the largest in the eastern part of the State of Arkansas. In this great orchard, which covers many acres, there are three thousand peach trees of excellent variety, and two thousand apple trees, not to enumerate other varieties of trees which contribute their share to the profit and pleasure of their worthy owner.



MADISON GIN COMPANY—THEO. BOND, MANAGER.

Mr. Bond is the owner of one of the most complete ginneries in the State of Arkansas. The Madison Gin Company is the only ginnery in the community of Madison, Ark., and it has a monopoly of the ginning for a radius of many miles. Situated as it is on the bank of the St. Francis River, it is thus accessible both by land and by water, and cotton is sent to be ginned there from distant

places on the St. Francis River. The ginnery is complete and modern in every particular and it is of the Continental Munger system. It has six gin stands, with a total capacity of one hundred bales in twelve hours. Its machinery is run with a 100 horsepower engine, that is provided with a 150 horsepower boiler. In the short crop season of 1909-10 the Madison Gin Company ginned 2,485 bales of cotton. In connection with his ginnery, Mr. Bond is the largest buyer of cotton seed in the eastern part of Arkansas, for he is a bidder for all of the cotton seed that is produced in his community. He pays the highest price that the market calls for, and he is in position to compete with any other buyer of cotton seed in the State. It matters not whether the cotton output is five thousand bales or fifty thousand bales, Mr. Bond is in the market to buy cotton seed at the highest price market quotation. The Madison Gin Company is one of the best equipped pieces of machinery in the State, and was built at a total cost of \$13,000. The master mind back of the operation of the Madison Gin Company is its manager, Mr. Theo. Bond, who is one of the best informed young men in his line in the whole State of Arkansas. He is an energetic, brainy young business man, and one of the most valuable assets in the management of his father's vast business.

SCOTT BOND, DEALER IN DRY GOODS, GROCERIES AND GENERAL MERCHANDISE, MADISON, ARK.

Possibly the most substantial and most pretentious building in the town of Madison, Ark., is the Bond Mercantile Building. It is a mammoth concrete structure, with three floors devoted to mercantile purposes. The building is 110 feet long and 30 feet wide, and is in all probability the largest mercantile establishment in the State that is owned and managed by a colored man. In this great establishment is kept nearly every commodity that the taste or necessities of the people can desire. Wagons, buggies, furniture, agricultural implements, hardware, dry goods, groceries and notions are spread out before the eyes in one mad riot of plentitude and excellence. It is not a mere country store, but it is such a mercantile emporium as would do justice to a large commercial center. It is the store for the masses and the man in the grimy overalls or the man with kid gloves and patent leather pumps can find something to his liking in this great store. The best brands of shoes are kept in stock, among which is the Frederick Douglass shoe, which is manufactured by a colored shoe factory up in Massachusetts.

This store does an enormous business in the course of a year. It furnishes the bulk of the supplies for nearly four hundred tenants on the lands of Mr. Bond, and it enjoys a well established trade

from the general public at large. From five to eight clerks are employed from time to time, and in the busiest part of the autumn these clerks have to handle a stock of goods that will invoice from \$20,000 to \$25,000. This mammoth two-story concrete building is valued at \$12,000.

THE BOND PATENT NEW GROUND PLOW.

The true farmer is one of the greatest geniuses of the world, for it is his province not only to cultivate the soil, which is the source of all wealth and prosperity for both individuals and nations, but he must be able to restore the chemical elements of the soil which the various crops produced thereon have drawn out, so that the soil may retain its fertility and productive power without loss. Next to the knowledge of lands and soils is the knowledge of how best to cultivate the soil, and this knowledge has to do not only with the time, but also the manner of cultivating the soil. The various agricultural implements that are used in the cultivation of the soil have wrought a revolution in farming methods and the whole routine of farm work has been improved and dignified until it may be considered one of the fine arts of rustic life.

Mr. Bond has contributed his share of time and intellect to the improvement of the farming life of the nation by manufacturing and putting on the market his famous patent New Ground Plow, which is proving to be the most effective plow on the market for the cultivation of new ground land.

ITS DESCRIPTION.

The famous Bond Patent New Ground Plow has a patent coulter fastener. This shrewd mechanical device in connection with the extra length and heavy weight of the plow enables it to run more easily and more effectively than it would if its dimensions were otherwise. It has already been proved to be the king of new ground plows, and its owner feels so confident of its superiority over all other plows that are manufactured for that particular purpose that it is sold under a guarantee to do satisfactory work. This plow has not been very long on the market, but it has already gained an enviable reputation for effective results in new ground cultivation. The proper cultivation of new ground is the nightmare of farming life, but with the use of this famous patent new ground plow that is owned and manufactured by Mr. Bond & Sons the terrors of new ground cultivation will be reduced to a minimum.

ITS POPULARITY.

The popularity of any agricultural implement may be estimated to a great extent by its sales. The sale of this plow has been really phenomenal, and to such an extent has this been the case that the manufacturing plant has had to be enlarged in order to meet the pressing demands of the trade. Orders are being filled from all parts of the States of Texas, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Mississippi and other States. The Bond Patent New Ground Plow represents the highest skill in the manufacturer's art, and is already revolutionizing new ground cultivation. Its superior merits have already been tested and every owner of this plow is an appreciative and grateful endorser of it.

THE BOND SAWMILL.

Not only is Mr. Bond one of the largest land owners of the State of Arkansas, but he is also one of the largest owners of timber lands. In this age of material prosperity there is such a great demand for building material that timber is now of almost fabulous value. Realizing the benefits that would in time accrue to him from the sale of his timber, Mr. Bond decided to erect a sawmill for the purpose of manufacturing lumber for all purposes. This sawmill operates in connection with his ginnery, and is a large, up-to-date plant. The erection of the sawmill is the climax in the industrial scheme of Mr. Bond and confers upon him the honor of being able to cater practically to every necessity of the people of his community. Viewed in this light, he is not only a wide-awake, progressive business man, but he is also a benefactor to those among whom his life is cast.

THE BOND BOOKKEEPING DEPARTMENT.

It is but reasonable to suppose that the proper supervision and management of the vast and varied business interests of Mr. Scott Bond would require a comprehensive system of bookkeeping. Such really is the case, and is the explanation for the installation of the most complete system of keeping accounts that can be found outside of a regular counting house. Less than a decade ago the business transactions of Mr. Scott Bond were not so systematically recorded as they now are. In the year of 1904 his business affairs had reached such proportions as to require the installation of a modern system of bookkeeping. That he might do so intelligently, he went about it in his characteristic manner by sending his son, Mr. Waverly Thomas Bond, to the Oberlin Business College, Oberlin, Ohio. This talented son graduated from the Oberlin Business College in the year of 1904, and immediately took charge of the

bookkeeping department of his father. His thorough knowledge of bookkeeping and business principles has enabled him to install for his father a system of bookkeeping that is as complete as can be found in any business house in this country. The bookkeeping department is fitted up with every modern facility and convenience, such as costly adding machines, typewriters and other office paraphernalia, and being under the business genius that installed and perfected it, this department is easily one of the most complete in the State.

SCOTT BOND & SONS.

In one particular Mr. Scott Bond is a very fortunate man and he is really blessed, for he has four educated and talented sons that make, possibly, the most capable and the most perfect business combination that it has ever been the writer's privilege to see in one colored family. It is often the case that the very wealth of the parent means an utterly worthless set of children, but the sons of Mr. Scott Bond form a happy exception to the general rule, for their energy, efficiency and fidelity have contributed wonders toward making their father the "Black John D. Rockefeller of the South." They form a veritable Macedonian phalanx in that part of the business world that affects their father's interests, and for the same reason they make an invincible combination in commercial life. That Mr. Bond highly appreciates the fidelity of his sons and their loyalty to his vast interests is evidenced by his voluntary admission of them to partnership with him in all of his business affairs. While the father is of an energetic and active temperament, and would prefer to wear out in service rather than to rust out in inactivity, yet the energy and capability of his sons render it unnecessary for him to take as active a part in the management of his business affairs as he formerly did. Each of his sons has his specialty and is master of the same. In addition to their educational training, they have inherited the shrewd, natural business intelligence of their father, and they make a business combination that can hardly be surpassed.

HIS SONS.

The Secretary, Treasurer and Manager of the business department of the firm of Bond & Sons is Mr. Waverly Thomas Bond, who is well equipped, both by education and practical experience, for his responsibility. He received his literary training at Roger Williams University, Nashville, Tenn., and his business education at the Oberlin Business College, from which he graduated in the year of 1904. In the year of 1900 he was united in marriage to Miss

Annie Rhoton, of Tullahoma, Tenn., and her encouragement and assistance have had much to do with the unusual success of her husband. Mr. Waverly Thomas Bond is not only a thorough business



WAVERLY THOMAS BOND

man, but he is a stalwart, prepossessing looking man, and would look perfectly at home in Wall street, New York, hobnobbing with the bloated bondholders in that staid and aristocratic thoroughfare.



THEOPHILUS BOND

The General Manager of the farm and ginnery is Mr. Theophilus Bond. He is the ubiquitous and irrepressible hustler that is always on the go, looking after the vast interests for which he is directly held responsible. He is one of the most valuable assets of the busi-

ness combination, for his sunshiny disposition and congenial personality make him a popular favorite wherever he goes. He has a host of friends, and it is probable that he has not an enemy of his voluntary making in the whole wide world. He received his academic training at Roger Williams University, and is thus well prepared for the exigencies of business life. He is a high-class business man, and is the fifth wheel in the management of his department of the firm's business. He is a young man that is still heart whole and fancy free, and is probably waiting for the affinity that was created for his happiness, and who is somewhere in this wide and beautiful world.

The general utility hustler in the firm's mercantile establishment is Mr. John Bond, a young man of splendid parts. He is one of the strong spokes in the wheel of the company's success, and can always be depended upon to do his part satisfactorily and well.

The youngest son is Master Ulysses Bond, who is now living the happy life of a student at Atlanta Baptist College, Atlanta, Ga. He is blessed with those golden opportunities which will help to make him a serviceable and efficient member of society, and there can be no doubt that he will fall in line and be a "chip off the old block," just as the others are.

HIS DEVOTED AND FAITHFUL WIFE.

If Mr. Scott Bond ever had any luck in this life, it was way back in the year of 1877, when he married his ever faithful and devoted wife. The world loudly proclaims the fact that Mr. Scott Bond is one of the most successful men and one of the greatest financiers in the ranks of the Negro race, all of which is true; but great as has been the success of Mr. Bond, it would not have been a possibility if it had not been for the energy, sacrifices, encouragement and assistance of his dear wife, who for years not only looked after his domestic affairs, but worked with him side by side in the hot and burning fields, trying to help him to climb higher and higher in the struggles of life. The honor and the glory belong to both of them, and there is no other man in this wide world who more deeply appreciates than he does the blessings that benign Providence bestowed upon him when fate led him to seek the hand and heart of his faithful companion over one-third of a century ago. Hand in hand they have walked down the road of life, toiling, sorrowing and rejoicing, as the exigencies of life would cause them, until they have reached this blessed milestone on life's journey. Mrs. Magnolia Bond has proved her worth, not only to her dear husband, but to her country, for she has given to it as a precious legacy eleven children, four of whom are still living and shedding their choicest



1 Mrs. Waverly Bond.
2 Ulysses Pond.

3. Mrs Magnolia Bond
4. John Bond

benedictions upon her life. Very few women have undergone what she has undergone, and still fewer will have such a substantial reward in this terrestrial life as she. She is one of the best women in the world, and the success of her husband demonstrates this fact beyond peradventure of doubt.

A REMARKABLE CHARACTER.

That the subject of this sketch is a remarkable character can not be denied. He is an original product, a veritable diamond in the rough. He did not rub his head against college walls, but he is one of the clearest and most logical thinkers that one would meet in a day's journey from home. He is fundamentally sound in his ideas on all things of public moment, and he is one of the most interesting and most entertaining conversationalists that one would wish to see. That he is a profound as well as an original thinker is evident to all who have been so fortunate as to attend the sessions of the National Negro Business League in recent years. He is not a polished orator, but his plain and homely talks have always profoundly impressed his hearers, made them think and set their tongues to wagging. His wonderful resources made such a profound impression at the session of the National Negro Business League in the city of New York that the metropolitan press heralded him as the "Black John D. Rockefeller of the South." In the State of Arkansas there is no other man of either race that deserves and commands the confidence, respect and esteem of his fellows to a greater extent than he does, and he is certainly one colored man of whom it may truthfully be said that "his word alone is as good as a government bond."





REV. J. A. BOOKER

Rev. J. A. Booker, A.M., D.D., Little Rock, Ark.

PRESIDENT OF ARKANSAS BAPTIST COLLEGE.



HERE has ever been an honest difference of opinion among men as to what field of activity will best promote the welfare and conserve the happiness of mankind. Without entering upon any labored attempt to prove the advantage of any particular kind of effort over another in behalf of human progress, it may be succinctly stated that the opportunity to serve human necessities is the highest attainable honor for any man. What the world needs today is determined, energetic and serviceable men and women to work out in intelligent service the salvation of the race, for it is in the domain of service that the race will reach its greatest possibilities.

Among the mighty forces that tend to promote the welfare and happiness of the Negro race there is no other force that is so potential as that of the trained, devoted and consecrated educators of the race. They are indeed the royal servants of the race, and have done more than any other human agency, with the exception of the ministry, to raise the race to power, dignity and honor. The real life of the race is an enduring monument to the school teachers and educators of the race, who have demonstrated to the world the fact that the pen is the most useful instrument of human progress.

Among the progressive educators of the race, few have served so well the interests of the race as has the worthy and consecrated subject of this sketch, for he has devoted his whole life to the training and development of the youth of the race, and through his instrumentality countless thousands of the race have been prepared to serve well the cause of human progress.

HIS BIRTHPLACE.

Rev. J. A. Booker, the honored President of Arkansas Baptist College, Little Rock, Ark., is a native of the State of Arkansas, and was born near Portland, Ashley County, December 26, 1859. Having been born and reared in the State of Arkansas, he presents an unusual spectacle, for there are indeed few citizens of his age, experience and ability that can claim the State of Arkansas as the field of their birth and the permanent theater of their labors. Most of the eminent men in the State of Arkansas are natives of the older States of the East, and this exception in the case of the worthy President of the Arkansas Baptist College is as pleasing as it is novel.

HIS EDUCATION FOR SERVICE.

The subject of this sketch attended the rural schools of his native county until he was nineteen years of age, and thus his opportunities for education were of the most meager character. He had only the most primitive educational advantages in his home county in those early days, but he made the best possible use of his opportunities. In the winter of 1878 he managed to get to Branch Normal College, Pine Bluff, Ark., then one of the leading institutions of learning in the State. That matchless educator, Prof. J. C. Corbin, was at the head of that institution, and it was under his inspiration that the subject no doubt gained much of his determination to make a mark for himself in the intellectual world. He remained a student of Branch Normal College for three years, or until the year of 1881, when he transferred his allegiance to another and even worthier institution of learning.

OFF TO ROGER WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY.

In the autumn of 1881 the subject of this sketch matriculated as a student at the old Nashville Institute, which is now known as Roger Williams University. For five long years he labored diligently in the mastery of the various tasks that were incident to his school life, and finally received his merited reward as a graduate of that institution with the degree of Bachelor of Arts in the year of 1886. Having thus prepared himself to serve the welfare of his people with the greatest degree of efficiency, he felt himself ready to assume the grave responsibilities for which he had so long been making preparation.

HIS CAREER AS AN EDUCATOR.

Dr. J. A. Booker has an exceptional career as an educator and such a worthy record as can hardly be duplicated in this day. He began his early career as a teacher in the night school on the plantation when he was only twelve years old, and continued his services in that capacity for three or four years. Notwithstanding the fact that he is now the honored President of one of the leading educational institutions of the land, it is probable that his present exalted position as an educator has never given him greater pride than the humble service that he was able to render his people when he was a mere child teacher on the plantation many years ago.

In the year of 1875 he began his career as a teacher in the common schools of his native county. He taught school in all of the summers of his student career, both at Branch Normal College and

Roger Williams University. The theater of his teaching activities was in his native county of Ashley; nor has he ever taught outside of his native county or State. He has always made good, and has never had to seek employment outside of the boundary of his native State.

PRESIDENT OF ARKANSAS BAPTIST COLLEGE IN 1887.

As it has already been stated, the subject of this sketch graduated from Roger Williams University in the year of 1886 with the degree of Bachelor of Arts. In the year of 1887 he was elected to the Presidency of Arkansas Baptist College, which at that time was more a college in theory than in actual existence. The subsequent banner educational institution of the Baptist denomination in the State of Arkansas did not own a foot of land, and it carried on its school sessions in borrowed churches and rented lodge halls. At the time the subject took hold of the presidency the school had an enrollment of thirty pupils, and there was only one other teacher besides the worthy President himself. From this humble nucleus the college has made one of the most marvelous gains of any institution in the land. In the year of 1887 the entire student body was merely local, and could have been assembled in the room of an ordinary family, but so wonderfully has the college grown in popular appreciation and favor that it now has an enrollment of 425 students from seven different States, and they are trained and governed by fifteen capable and efficient teachers.

ARKANSAS BAPTIST COLLEGE.

(a)

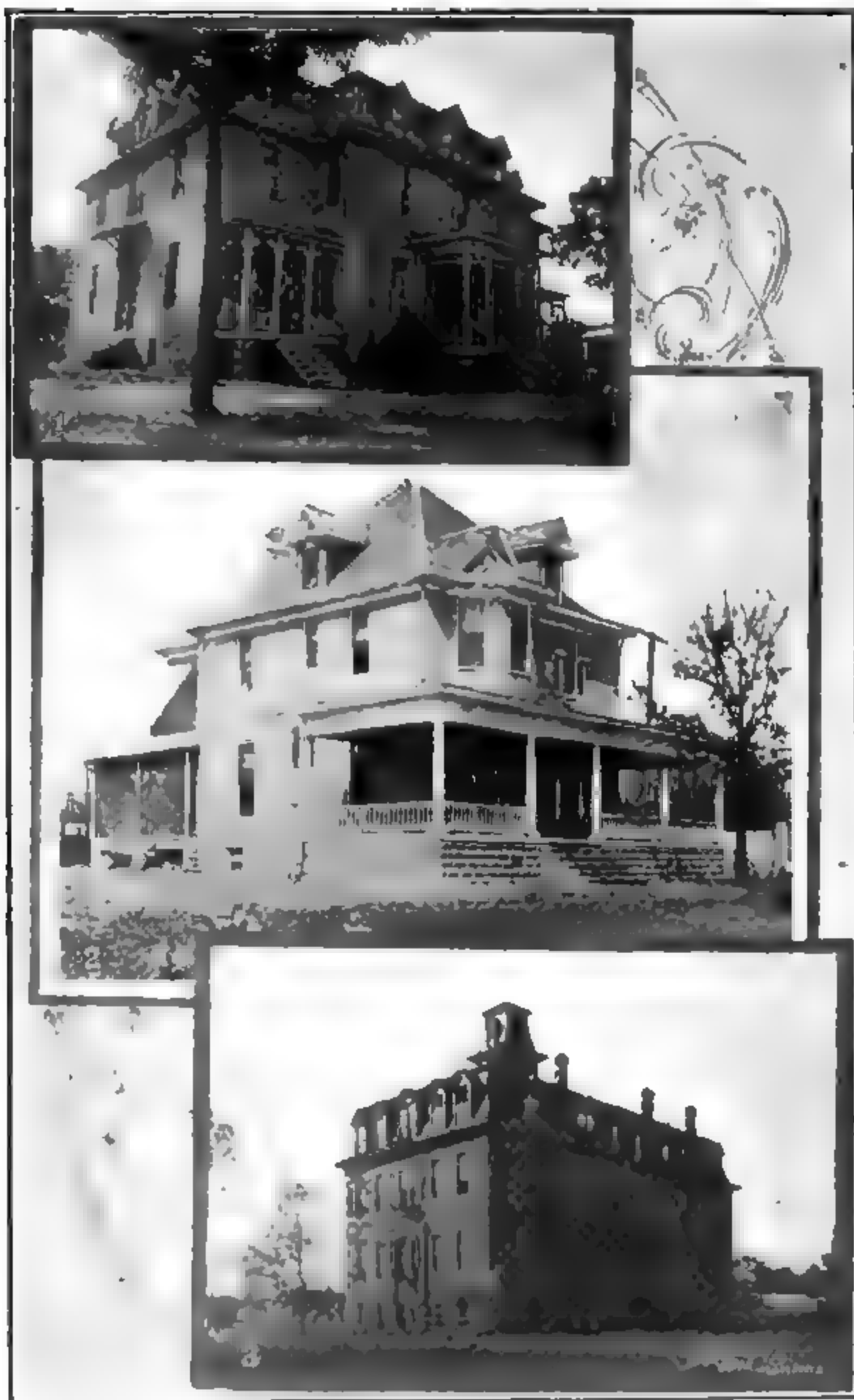
ITS AUSPICES.

The college is an enduring monument to the Negro Baptists of the State of Arkansas, who own and operate it through their Baptist State Convention. Notwithstanding the fact that the college is denominational, there is no religious exclusiveness in its management. The spirit of the institution is Christian, rather than denominational, and its doors are freely open to the youth of all conditions and creeds.

(b)

COLLEGE BUILDINGS.

The college is located in the southwestern section of the city of Little Rock, and its campus occupies nearly four acres of valuable land in one of the most desirable sections of the city. Its principal



ARKANSAS BAPTIST COLLEGE

1. Boys' Dormitory.
2. Alumni Cottage—The President's Home.
3. Main Building.

buildings are capacious and attractive, and form the nucleus for many other handsome structures that will be erected as soon as the financial resources of the college will render it possible. The valuation of the college property, both in the city and country, will approximate \$75,000.

(c)

GRIGGS INDUSTRIAL FARM.

Through the philanthropic inception of Miss Helen M. Griggs, who gave the first purchase money therefor, and still contributes at least \$100 a year for its improvement, the college owns a valuable farm of 100 acres of land, on which it can teach the principles of agriculture in a scientific, practical and effective manner. On this farm are one four-room tenant house, one store house, a capacious barn and a cotton gin that is operated by steam power. On this valuable farm site other important industries will be put in operation just as soon as the necessary financial support is forthcoming. Stock raising, dairying, brick making and a woodworking factory are some of the contemplations for the near future.

(d)

RESOURCES AND MAINTENANCE.

A great opportunity is presented to the charitably inclined members of the race who believe in the virtue and efficacy of Christian education to assist one of the worthiest educational institutions of the race. If education is necessary for the white race, and has made it the all-powerful and all-conquering race of the world, it is certainly necessary for any people who are in the very infancy of their development. Christian education should be the shibboleth of the rank and file, not only of the great Baptist denomination of the State of Arkansas, but of every other denomination that is anxious to promote the welfare and prosperity of the race. The members of the race must encourage and support the private institutions of learning, for they are the only institutions in this Southland in which the Negro youth are permitted without any restrictions whatsoever to learn anything that they have an ambition to learn. The time is rapidly approaching when the individual members of the race, rather than the State or the nation, will have to bear the burden of responsibility for the higher education of the race. In the Southern States the idea is rapidly crystallizing that purely industrial education is the only sensible training for the youth of the race. So the handwriting is plainly seen on the wall that if the higher educational institutions of the race are to be fostered and maintained, the Negroes themselves must assume the responsibility by contributing to their own institutions their moral and financial support.

The present expenses of Arkansas Baptist College amount to more than \$20,000 yearly. The school has no endowment, and therefore must depend upon the philanthropy and generosity of the friends of Christian education wherever they may be found. The income from students' fees is sufficient to defray only a fractional part of the current expenses of the school, and this leaves a vast sum to be raised from external sources. Here is presented a golden opportunity to foster the cause of Christian education and at the same time show to the world that the men and women of the race have enough interest and pride in the education of the youth of the race to make every necessary sacrifice to promote their welfare. Who will be the next to contribute to the maintenance of this worthy institution of the race? The harvest is ripe, but the laborers are few. The worthy President of this institution is deeply grateful to the friends of Christian education for their kindly assistance in the past, and he sincerely hopes that the work of the college will continue to merit their endorsement and support.

HIS CAREER AS A MINISTER.

Rev. J. A. Booker began his long and useful career in the gospel ministry when he was only sixteen years old, but he was not formally ordained in the ministry until after he had graduated from Roger Williams University in the year of 1886. While a student of his alma mater he studied theology and nearly completed the regular course in theology. He made serious preparations for success in the ministry, and he would not seek ordination honors until he had thoroughly prepared himself for the most effective service in the sacred calling to which he had dedicated the energies of his life. His whole ministerial life has been spent at the head of the college rather than in the pastorate. He is one of the most effective pulpit orators of the denomination, and he brings to the mastery of his calling all the powers which experience, training and high scholarship can produce. His life is a credit to his calling, and the race needs others like him to make the ministry a credit and honor to the race.

HIS HONORARY DEGREES.

In the year of 1894 his alma mater, Roger Williams University, conferred upon him the degree of Master of Arts. In the year of 1901 the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity was conferred upon him by State University, Louisville, Ky., and the same honor was conferred upon him by Shaw University, Raleigh, N. C., in the year of 1902. These are all reputable institutions of learning, and their official endorsement of one's scholarship and intellectual worth is worth more than a mere passing notice.

EDITOR OF THE VANGUARD.

Rev. J. A. Booker is editor of the Baptist Vanguard, the official organ of the Baptist denomination in the State of Arkansas. The paper is published at the college, and has a general circulation all over the State of Arkansas. President Booker has been actively connected with the editorship of this paper for nearly twenty-five years, with only an occasional intermission.

HIS FAITHFUL AND ENERGETIC WIFE.

If the life inspiration of the subject has ever been to serve his people to the best of his ability, the same can be said of his faithful and energetic wife, with whose assistance and noble sacrifices the great record of the President of the college has been made possible. On the 28th of June, 1887, the subject of this sketch was united in marriage to Miss Mary J. Caver, of Helena, Ark. Both the doctor and his estimable wife were students at Roger Williams University at the same time, and it was in those halcyon days that the two plighted their troth ever to love and comfort the other as long as life should last. She was a teacher in the Helena public school for three years. Since her marriage her life work has been connected wholly with the college, for which she has done a work of far-reaching beneficence. Her unremitting efforts and noble sacrifices have frequently brought daylight out of Stygian darkness and the college is as much a monument to her unremitting efforts as it is to those of her able husband.

THE CHILDREN.

Eight children have been born to Rev. and Mrs. J. A. Booker, and all of them have enjoyed the best of educational advantages, as far as their ages would permit. Miss Mattie Albert Booker is a graduate of the academic department of Arkansas Baptist College. She is an expert musician and completed the course of music at the Arkansas Baptist College and the advanced music course at Spellman Seminary, Atlanta, Ga. She also took a summer course in music at the Chicago Musical College. She completed the course in stenography in the Arkansas Baptist College, and is now the honored teacher of both music and stenography in the college over which her father presides. Miss Carrie Isabella Booker is a graduate of the academic and collegiate departments of Arkansas Baptist College. She is a scholar of the first magnitude, and is also proficient in music. Joseph R. Booker is a graduate of the academic department of the same college. Helen Griggs Booker, named for

his financial friend, Miss Helen M. Griggs, formerly of Boston, is doing successful work in the academic department, and will graduate in 1914. All of the children are musical and capable of the highest degree of service in that line.

AN ESTIMATE OF PRESIDENT BOOKER.

It is hardly an exaggeration to declare that President J. A. Booker is the most influential educator of the race in the State of Arkansas. Honored with the presidency of the leading institution of learning of the Baptist denomination in his State, he is by virtue of the power of numbers alone, if nothing else, the leading educational force in the State. But if to this popular advantage there be added his unusual worth as a citizen and superior attainments as a scholar, a combination for effective service is produced that can not be surpassed in the State. He is the quintessence of simplicity and kindness, and there is not an atom of pretense or affectation in his character. He is a man of the highest ideals, and he has faithfully striven to impress upon his student body his exalted conceptions of life and its responsibilities. For nearly a quarter of a century he has been at the head of this premier institution of the race, and his wise and progressive leadership has elevated the institution from the humblest beginning to one of the most worthy institutions in the galaxy of the colleges of the race. From a poor, struggling youth on the farm to the presidency of one of the best colleges of the race is no insignificant achievement for even a member of the white race. Much more creditable, therefore, is it for a colored man who was practically born in slavery and had only the barest plantation opportunities for intellectual culture in the days of his youth. President Booker's administration has been one of the most successful in the annals of American college life, and seldom has it been the honor of any president of a college of the race to have such a long and honorable tenure of office. President Booker is the right man in the right place, and this fact must be evident to his constituency, who have repeatedly honored him with re-election to his position of trust and responsibility. He is one of the foremost college presidents of the time, and he has thoroughly demonstrated the administrative ability of the Negro race. The Baptists of the State of Arkansas are to be congratulated for having in their ranks such a capable, efficient and devoted leader. He has served the cause of the denomination in the State of Arkansas to the best of his ability, but he has also served the cause of human progress equally as well. He is an energetic and progressive man, and such a man as he is produced only at long intervals, and then only when the exigencies of humanity demand the production.

Rev. J. P. Robinson, A.M., D.D., LL.D., Little Rock, Ark.

PASTOR OF THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH.



IN ALL the ages of the world the ministers of the gospel have been the real leaders of every people, and they are none the less potential in their leadership today. They are the ones through whom God has revealed all mysteries and all prophecies, and likewise the ways of salvation and eternal life. Since the earliest days of creation they have been the chosen medium of communication between God and man, and in their exalted sphere they are the most powerful instrument for the welfare, progress and happiness of the human race. The position of the colored minister of the gospel is as unique as it is responsible, for he fills nearly every worthy relationship to his people. He is preacher, teacher, adviser, confidential friend and father to his people, and he is respected, loved and honored by them as are no other leaders of the people.

One of the best known, most influential and ablest ministers of the gospel in the State of Arkansas, if not in the entire South, is Rev. J. P. Robinson, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Little Rock, Arkansas. He is a safe and sagacious leader, a great preacher and one of the most serviceable men in the ranks of the race.

HIS BIRTHPLACE.

The reverend subject of this sketch was born on a farm near Hernando, DeSoto County, Miss. The exact date of his birth is more a matter of conjecture than of absolute knowledge, and in the absence of authentic information, no definite date can be given. The doctor, however, has reason to believe that he was born the latter part of the decade of the 50's.

HIS EARLY EDUCATION.

The subject was a typical country boy, and had only the most primitive educational advantages in the days of his youth. He remained on the farm until he was twenty-five years of age, and his daily routine of work had more to do with hard manual labor than with books and things of an intellectual character. He first attended the rural schools of his county at go-as-go-can times, and he also attended night school at short and irregular times. He was anxious to learn, and for this reason he availed himself of every opportunity to strengthen his mental powers. He was always



DR. J. P. ROBINSON

studious and determined to master his books, and notwithstanding the fact that his attendance at school was often restricted to a period of two or three weeks at a time, his progress in his studies was marvelous in comparison with that of many others with far better opportunities.

SETTLED IN ARKANSAS IN 1881.

In the year of 1881, thousands of people emigrated from Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama and other Southern States to the State of Arkansas, where vast acres of government land were being thrown open to settlement at a mere nominal cost to those who were willing to comply with the requirements of the government. The subject of this sketch had read glowing accounts of the possibilities of the new country, and therefore he decided to quit his native habitat and cast his lot for weal or woe with the new country of such wonderful possibilities. On the 4th of February, 1881, the subject quit his Mississippi home, emigrated to the State of Arkansas, and settled near Alexander.

A SCHOOLMASTER IN ARKANSAS.

His diligent application to his books while a poor, struggling youth in the State of Mississippi began to bring its reward when he first settled in the State of Arkansas, for he began at once that career of service which has made him so potential in the progress of the race. In the year of 1881 he successfully passed the examination for a position as teacher in the public schools of Pulaski County, Arkansas, and he taught school for at least six months in every year until he was called to the pastorate of the First Baptist Church at Little Rock, Ark. He taught for six or seven years in the common schools of his adopted State, and did in them an effective work for the advancement and uplift of his race.

SERVING IN THE MINISTRY.

The experience of the subject has been unique in the annals of the ministry, for he enjoys the distinction of never having formally been licensed to preach the gospel. The worthy doctor is an unusual man, and is not amenable to the laws of ordinary procedure, as are the generality of men. On the kindly motion of one of the fellow members of his church, the church voted its permission for him to preach the Word, and he has been proclaiming the Word ever since. Well does he recollect his first effort in the gospel ministry. He does not dignify his first humble exhortation with the name of a sermon, but he did his best, as he has ever striven

to do since that memorable occasion. His first sermon was delivered in a log cabin at a prayer meeting on Saturday night, and his maiden discourse was the text that every man in the world must well consider, "You must be born again." After he had lived in the State of Arkansas for three years, and had developed both mentally and spiritually, he was ordained to the ministry in the year of 1884.

ELECTED PASTOR OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH IN 1887.

While teaching school in Pulaski County, the subject received a letter from the board of deacons of the First Baptist Church, Little Rock, Ark., asking him if he would come and fill their pulpit for a while. Looking upon this invitation as a divine opportunity for service, he accepted their kind invitation and began his duties as trial pastor in the month of October, 1886. After he had served the church for three months it was evident to the deacon board and membership that they had received the services of a highly capable and worthy Christian gentleman, and they decided that the needs of the church made it imperative for them to call the subject to the pastorate of the church, which they heartily did in the month of January, 1887.

When he took charge of the First Baptist Church in the year of 1887 the church was heavily encumbered with debt. There were about three hundred members, among whom there were only a few young people. Under his long and successful pastorate the membership of the church has increased by leaps and bounds, until it has reached the vast number of 1,800 souls. Instead of groaning under the yoke of a heavy debt, the membership has a church that is valued at \$75,000, and which is easily one of the handsomest church edifices in the South. It has, perhaps, the largest Sunday School in the South, 400 pupils and 32 teachers.

One of the refreshing evidences of the effective character of Dr. Robinson's work as pastor of his church is the great number of intelligent and aggressive young people that affiliate with his church. Their name is legion, and there is hardly a church of any denomination in this whole country that can boast of a larger and a more intelligent membership of young people.

AS A MINISTER.

As a minister, Dr. Robinson is one of the ablest and one of the most popular in the country, and there is nothing needed to demonstrate the truth of this statement more effectively than the membership of his church. Wherever there can be found such overwhelming numbers constituting the membership of a church, there is

undoubted evidence of great power in the leader. The fact is, Dr. Robinson is one of the born and divinely commissioned leaders of the Negro race. He knows both the weakness and the strong points of the race, and he is able to take advantage of every opportunity to put its members in the direction of progress, prosperity and happiness. He is a sort of spiritual philosopher in the leadership of his people, and is able to do with his congregation what few other ministers can do. He enjoys the confidence and devotion of his members to a remarkable degree, and he has faithfully endeavored to prove himself worthy of their appreciation and confidence. He has exhorted them along the lines that will best promote their interest as a race, and his exhortation has been an incentive to his people to buy homes, patronize each other in business life, respect themselves and their families, educate their children, be law-abiding citizens, be truly religious, and inherit the whole earth and the fullness thereof.

AS A SPEAKER.

That man or woman is indeed fortunate that ever hears the doctor in one of his inimitable discourses. It is confidently contended by some that there are no two objects in the universe just alike. Whatever degree of truth there may be in this statement, the writer feels confident in his position that there is not another character in the known world just like Dr. Robinson. In the first place, he thoroughly knows himself. He knows how he himself looks, how he himself walks and talks. He has the unique perspicacity to see himself as others see him, which is indeed a rare virtue in any human being. He knows himself, and because of this fact, if for no other, he is indeed a wise man. He is naturally a witty man, and can convulse at will any congregation of his race. His inimitable wit and facetious remarks can not be heard from any other source except from himself. His discourses furnish food for the mind, body and soul, and can hardly be duplicated in any other pulpit in the country. He is a popular preacher and can adapt himself to the mental capacities of all classes of men. He is fully aware of the fact that a congregation of colored people is the hardest proposition to which a minister of the gospel can preach, and that the lot of the colored preacher is not beset with roses because of this fact. He realizes that there are varying degrees of intelligence among the members of his congregation, and that in order to reach them all his style of discourses must be within their comprehension. Realizing this fact, he governs himself accordingly. A wise minister of the gospel must make his appeal to all that are under the sound of his voice, and he must do so in language that is intelligible to the humblest auditor that honors the minister with his presence.

It is not necessary to marvel why the doctor has such an extraordinary following, especially when the character of the man is known. Every member or visitor to his church gets something in return for his visit. There is nothing about him that smacks of kid-gloveism, and the illiterate, handkerchief-headed grandmother is as cordially welcome to his church as is the self-satisfied college professor.

There are two parts to the discourses of Dr. Robinson. The first part is the inimitable, semi-serious part which is so characteristic of the man. It is mainly in the nature of a heart-to-heart talk with his hearers concerning their follies, their weaknesses, their grave mistakes. In this part of his discourses he takes off the mask of hypocrisy, which so often conceals the true nature of one member of the race toward the other, and shows the real man or woman in all of his or her God-forsaken hideousness. He inveighs severely against all forms of unrighteousness, and constantly exhorts his people to remain firm in the faith of the master and keep their feet firmly planted on the rock of Eternal Power.

The second part of his discourses is the part in which he measures up to the highest standards of the ministry. His discourses are logical, convincing and scholarly. He has easy command of his thought, and clothes it in language befitting the theme of his discourse. He is a man of varied experience, and knows the world from every angle. He is blessed with a world of common sense and good judgment, and in this respect he takes a subordinate position to no one. What nature herself has not done for him, education has, for he is one of the intellectual lights of the denomination. He is an effective speaker, with an inexhaustible fund of sound philosophy and useful information that is invaluable for every man that takes a serious view of life. He is an orator of the first magnitude, and has long since made his reputation as one of the most capable and one of the most effective pulpit orators of his church.

OFFICIAL HONORS.

The subject of this sketch is one of the officials in the councils of the Baptist denomination. He is Chairman of the Home Mission Board of the National Baptist Convention. He has served as Vice-President of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention for nearly twenty-five years. He is Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Arkansas Baptist College, and has the honor of being the Dean of Theology in this same worthy institution. He is also President of the Baptist Ministers' Conference of his city.

AN ALUMNUS OF ARKANSAS BAPTIST COLLEGE.

Reference has already been made to the fact that the subject was ever ambitious to store his mind with knowledge, and that his educational advantages in the days of his youth were very limited. As soon as he had been called to the pastorate of the First Baptist Church in the city of Little Rock, Ark., he saw and took advantage of the golden opportunity for mental culture which had providentially been provided for him. In connection with the serious duties of pastor of the largest church in the State, the subject found time to burn the midnight oil in study for serious preparation for life. Many other ministers with such a splendid charge would have been perfectly satisfied with their mental equipment for the leadership of their people. But the subject took time by the forelock and utilized the advantages that were presented to him by the Arkansas Baptist College. It was not a bed of roses to minister to his large flock and successfully cultivate his mind by study, but he persevered and in the year of 1899 he won the honor of graduating from the collegiate department of that institution of learning with the degree of Bachelor of Arts.

HONORARY DEGREES.

In the year of 1909 the degree of Master of Arts was conferred upon Dr. Robinson by his alma mater, Arkansas Baptist College. In the year of 1902 State University, Louisville, Ky., conferred upon him the degree of Doctor of Divinity. In the year of 1910 the Bible College of Philadelphia, Pa., conferred upon him the honored degree of Doctor of Civil Laws. The last honor, as were the others, came to him wholly unsolicited, and from an institution that is operated by educators of the opposite race.

AS AN AUTHOR.

Not only has the subject of this sketch shown ability of the highest order as a pulpit orator and general leader of his people, but he has gained a name and fame in the domain of letters, for he is the author of a book that is entitled "Sermons and Sermonettes," which book has proved to be so popular that it has already circulated through its third edition. It is a remarkable seller, and has demonstrated that the author is a literary man of no mean ability.

A SPLENDID BUSINESS MAN.

As a business man and financier the doctor needs no sympathy, for he is well able to take care of his interest along that line, just

as in all other lines. He does not think that it comports with the dignity of the ministry to be proclaiming from the housetops just how much they may be worth in the goods of this world, and for this reason he spoke of his material accumulations with considerable reluctance. After repeated importunities from the writer, the doctor admitted that he is a substantial taxpayer in four counties of the State of Arkansas. The doctor is unquestionably one of the shrewdest financiers of the race, and would take deep root in the desert of Sahara if he were a castaway therein. He is as successful as a business man as he is as a minister of the gospel, and he has never slept on his opportunities to earn an honest dollar. He has practiced the very doctrine that he has preached so long to his congregation, viz., that they should look well to the rainy day of life and strive to accumulate some of life's material blessings. He believes that a man that has been so fortunate as to enjoy the blessings of this terrestrial life will be the better qualified to appreciate the higher and purer life beyond the grave.

HIS ESTIMABLE AND ENERGETIC WIFE.

A trite saying it undoubtedly is that "nothing succeeds like success." Among the many great successes in the splendid career of the subject of this sketch, there is one that stands out like the Sphinx in the desert, and that is his extraordinary success in winning the hand and heart of Miss Amanda Talley, to whom he was united in marriage February 22, 1893. His wife is a woman of splendid intellectual training, and received her education at Spellman Seminary and Roger Williams University. She is a woman of versatile accomplishments, and can do several different things in a highly creditable manner. In the first place, she is a very capable musician, and is considered one of the leading music teachers of Little Rock, Ark. She is well trained in the principles of composition and harmony, and is thus way above the average musician who seldom specializes in that department of the so-called "divine art."

Mrs. Robinson is said to be the most expert specialist of the hair, skin and the female figure in the State of Arkansas. She is in possession of some of the greatest secrets of her profession, and her various preparations for the improvement of the skin, hair and figure divine of the female sex has gained more than mere local celebrity. She manufactures some of the most effective hair dressings, face lotions and skin preparations that can be found in the market. Her remedies are standard preparations of known merit and their efficacy for the purpose for which they are used is a

matter of grateful knowledge to hundreds of worthy and veracious people, who are glad to testify to their superior merit.

She is a shrewd business woman, and is nearly incomparable as a financier. She is not one of those parlor queens that dawdle about with nothing to do but eat and sleep, but she is a wide-awake woman, with a mind that is ambitious to win, not only fame, but the tangible rewards that emanate from it. She is a marvelous woman in the arena of business life, and a shining example of what a talented woman of the race can do if she will but make the most of her opportunities.

A LEADER OF THE PEOPLE.

Dr. Robinson is a conservative man, as well as an experienced man. He is trained in the art of diplomacy, or he never could have won the unfaltering support of his vast congregation for all of these many years. He is one of the safest of race leaders, and his candid opinion on any proposition is worthy of careful consideration. A man that has been successful enough to merit the commendation of progressive men, both in his own race and in other races, to the extent that the subject has, is certainly in possession of some of the elements that commend him for leadership of the race. He is a man of affairs and substantial means, and he is as highly respected as any other minister in the State. By the sheer force of his personality he has carved a name high on the eternal rock of fame, and coming generations will be proud to honor and revere his name.





DR. T. O. FULLER

T. O. Fuller, A.M., Ph.D., D.D., Memphis, Tenn.

PASTOR OF THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH AND PRINCIPAL OF HOWE
INSTITUTE.



IN THE history of the Negro race in America it has happened that many of the most distinguished and most eminent leaders of the race have been of mixed blood. This condition of admixture was largely due to the degrading influences of slavery, to which the race was subjected for two and one-half centuries, not mentioning those unfortunate social conditions that result from the voluntary action of responsible men and women, in full possession of their faculties and under no restraint except that which the dictates of reason and conscience impose upon them. It is the custom and pleasure of the dominant race, when considering the career of a Negro of mixed lineage, to ascribe any unusual mental or moral endowment in him to the presence of the Anglo-Saxon strain in his blood. Now, it can easily be shown that, of all the various bloods of the human race, the blood of the Negro is the most powerful and the most far-reaching in its effects, for the millionth part of a molecule of such blood is powerful enough to transform the whitest being in the world into a Negro. This being the case, it seems out of harmony with the facts in this case to give a less powerful strain of blood more credit for human excellence than the blood which scientifically is admitted to be strong enough in a single drop to metamorphose any human being under heaven's canopy into a Negro. This is the sketch of a man of extraordinary intellectual and moral endowment. He is one of the most gifted men of the nation, irrespective of race, and notwithstanding this fact, it can not be shown by the most rigid microscopical and chemical analysis that he has in his veins a single Caucasian germ. He is a member of the royal house of the race, and the Negro race is entitled to full credit for his great talents and extraordinary ability.

HIS BIRTHPLACE AND PARENTS.

The subject of this sketch is a native son of the State of North Carolina, and was born in Franklinton, Franklin County, October 25, 1867. He was born at an auspicious time and amidst an ideal environment for the development of character and worthy manhood, for the race had just emerged from the depths of slavery into

the glorious sunlight of freedom, and the whole foundation structure of the race's future in this country had to be laid. His parents had worn the badge of servitude, and they knew what it was to struggle and endure. They were people of the old school, and had in their characters many of the transcendent virtues that have helped to transform this country from a virgin wilderness into this present seat of civilization and power. His father, Mr. J. Henderson Fuller, was an oldtime carpenter, and he had such an abiding love for his dear wife and children that he labored hard to earn the money with which he hired the time of his wife from her master, in order that he might have the pleasure of her company and the benefit of her wise counsel at all times in the rearing of the children whom benign Providence had committed to their care. This love of family and of home is the foundation upon which the superstructure of a race must be built, and it is one of the sublime virtues that have made the Anglo-Saxon race the leading race in the conquest and civilization of the world. The mother of Dr. Fuller, Mrs. Mary Eliza Fuller, was a woman of saintly character, and lived for but two things, the welfare of her husband and the happiness of her children. Neither was rich in the intellectual stores of this life, but both were rich in love and devotion to their children and in their prayerful desire to rear their children to live lives of usefulness and honor to their race, to their country, and to their Maker. They were noted for their fecundity, and gave to the cause of their country fourteen children, of whom the subject of this sketch is the youngest. Ten of their children are still living, and in their respective spheres are living lives that are creditable alike to themselves and the sacred memory of their devoted and loving parents.

HIS SCHOOL LIFE AND SPLENDID EDUCATION.

The school life of the subject began when he was a mere tot of five years. His parents, though they had been slaves, had an instinctive idea of the value and importance of education, and they gave to all of their children the advantages of all the training that the circumstances of the parents would permit. The fundamental training of the subject began in a private school, and in that school hallowed with the sweetest and fondest memories of his youthful days, he successfully ran the gauntlet of all of the oldtime terrors in Webster's Blue Back Speller, McGuffey's Readers and the troublesome and mysterious ciphering in the mathematical series of Ray, Robinson and other famous authors. The year of 1882 was made memorable in his school life by his matriculation at the State Normal School, which had been located in Franklinton, his home town. Judging by the splendid reputation of some of the teachers of that

institution, and by their subsequent career of eminence, the State Normal School at Franklinton must have been a highly creditable institution of learning. However, it is a matter of record that the training of the subject in that school was so thorough in character that in the year of 1885, on the occasion of his matriculation from Shaw University, Raleigh, N. C., he was able to make the second year college preparatory class.

Dr. Fuller's education was not handed to him on a silver platter. He had to work and struggle for it, and this fact accounts in a great measure for the splendid use that he has made of his educational opportunities. His parents were ever constant in their affection and loyalty to his interests, but their humble circumstances were not sufficient to provide the thousand and one needs that were incident to college life. There was something in the manliness and ambition of the subject which favorably impressed the officials of the university, and they gave him an opportunity to work in part payment of his way. From the humble duties of master of the sweeping brush he was, because of his faithful and efficient services, promoted to the comparatively dignified position of keeper-in-charge of the reading room, where his hungry and ambitious mind could feast and revel upon the choicest literature of the ages. His promotion to the reading room was one of the most fortunate and one of the most agreeable incidents of his college career, for it gave him unlimited access to many of the leading papers, journals, magazines, periodicals and other literary works of the day, and not only did he cultivate the habit of systematic reading, but he stored his mind with a wealth of information that has been of inestimable value to him as a professional worker and public man.

While a student of Shaw University, he was fortunate in getting much of that training and experience that would equip and fortify him for the great arena of life. He was president of the dining-hall, Secretary of the Sunday School, and President of the lyceum, and in that three-fold capacity he received that thorough training and discipline that have made him one of the most resourceful and one of the ablest public men of the South. The college career of the subject came to a close in the month of May, 1890, when he received from his alma mater the coveted degree of Bachelor of Arts on the occasion of his graduation. Of the forty young men and young women that were members of his class in the year of 1885, when he first matriculated at the university, he was the only one to receive that degree from the university. He had spent eighteen long years in preparing for the duties and responsibilities of life, and few have been the ones so well equipped for service and usefulness as he was when he threw off the mantle of college life and entered the arena of service to his people.

HIS CAREER AS A SCHOOLMASTER.

There was method in the unique manner in which the subject gained much of his experience in preparation for his successful and brilliant career as a schoolmaster. While a student at Shaw University he did considerable teaching in the schools of his native State during his vacations, and served often without compensation. Having selected some large and prominent school, he would voluntarily assist the principal of the school for a few weeks, and in this unusual way he not only gained valuable experience, but a great reputation for ability as a teacher among the people with whom he labored. During his senior year at college he was employed as an assistant teacher under commission from the Baptist Home Mission Society, and this timely employment at such a crucial period in his college career in a measure relieved his straightened financial circumstances and contributed greatly to the pleasure of the most eventful day in his experience at the university, the day of his graduation.

The professional career of the subject as a schoolmaster began in the public schools of Granville County, North Carolina. In the very first school that he taught he succeeded in making an indelible impression upon the mind of the County Superintendent by showing to that official's satisfaction that the young teacher had the ability to do things whatsoever the emergency might be. He gave to the Superintendent a practical demonstration of the value of industrial education by taking the initiative in building a chimney for the schoolhouse in order to expedite the opening of the school on the following Monday morning. This unusual feat merited from the Superintendent the increase in salary that the subject had asked for, but which the Superintendent at first had been unwilling to concede to him. The Superintendent was quick to perceive the fact that he had employed a teacher whose value to the community could not be lightly regarded, and that it was to the welfare of the community that the valuable services of such a teacher should be more substantially rewarded.

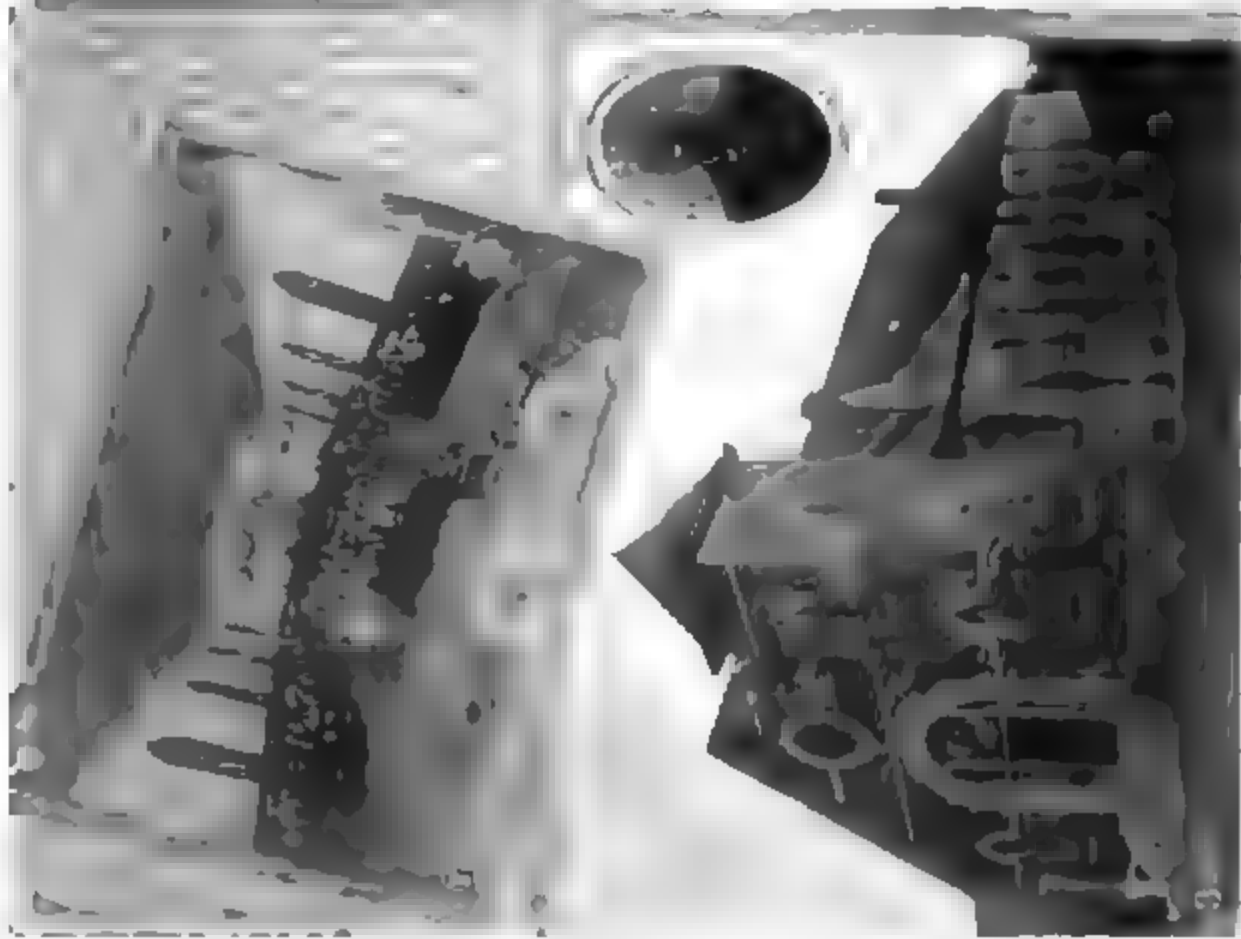
In the year of 1892 he founded the Girls' Training School at Franklinton, N. C. The school was under the auspices of the Baptists of that city, who had called the subject to that city with the purpose of organizing such a school in view. In the course of two years commodious buildings were erected for the school and it flourished. Having successfully organized the school, he resigned the principalship of the school to a worthy successor and accepted the principalship of Shiloh Institute at Warrenton, N. C. This school was under the auspices of the Shiloh Association of Baptist Churches, and gave promise of great service in the advancement and

uplift of the race. In the year of 1900, in obedience to the importunities of many of his friends, who were well acquainted with his superior ability as a schoolmaster, the subject opened up a private academy at Warren Plains, N. C. His tenure of service in that town was not of long duration, but he succeeded in waking up that community as it had never been awakened before.

FROM WARREN PLAINS TO MEMPHIS, TENN.

The town of Warren Plains, N. C., is closely related to the city of Memphis, Tenn., for it was while the subject was serving his people in that little town that, through the kindly interest of his personal friend, he was called to the pastorate of the First Baptist Church of Memphis, Tennessee. Upon his arrival in the city of Memphis to serve in the pastorate, he was pressed into service by the Principal of Howe Institute, Professor J. Levister, to teach civil government and theology at the same school. The subject entered upon the incidental work of the class room with that characteristic energy and enthusiasm for which he has always been noted. He brought into evidence that skillful technical training resulting from a thorough college education, that facility of execution, that clearness of exposition, that brilliant rhetorical display, and that astonishing erudition which simply overwhelmed and swept everything before them. These extraordinary gifts, shown in clearing up mysterious and difficult questions in the ministers' classes in theology, in the elucidation of the lessons in the Sunday School, and in his eloquent and able discourses in the pulpit, were the means of focusing on him the attention and admiration of the public to a greater extent than had been the case with any other newcomer to the city.

In the year of 1902 Principal Levister accepted a call to serve on the faculty of Shaw University, his alma mater. Professor Levister's acceptance of the position that was tendered him left a vacancy in the principalship of Howe Institute. This was indeed an unfortunate condition for the school, and the trustees of that institution were confronted with the serious proposition of wisely selecting his successor. The times were critical, and the trustees were anxious to make the wisest possible choice for the principalship that was made vacant. After deliberating for some time as to whom the trustees should select for the place, the thought came to Rev. T. J. Searcy, one of the pioneer, loyal and faithful adherents of the school, that Dr. T. O. Fuller would be just the man to fill the vacancy. Now, Rev. T. J. Searcy has always been a very quick-witted, far-seeing man, and can go from Dan to Beersheba on a proposition before the average man has even scratched his head in



(1) Interior First Baptist Church



(2) Women's Bible Training Class



(3) First Baptist Church

(4) Pastors' Training Class

order to think. So Rev. T. J. Searcy asked Dr. Fuller why the doctor should not take the principalship of Howe Institute. The question was a surprise to Dr. Fuller, who had come to the city of Memphis for the sole purpose of serving in a pastorate capacity. But the doctor is not a man to dodge and run from responsibility. He was educated for service, and it is only when he is serving his people to his fullest ability that he feels that his life is what he would like for it to be. In the course of a short time the wisdom of selecting Dr. Fuller became apparent to all the trustees, and they unanimously elected him principal of Howe Institute to succeed Professor J. Levister in the year of 1902.

AS PRINCIPAL OF HOWE INSTITUTE.

In every great crusade there is a turning point. In every contest involving the welfare of humanity and the success of the human race there is always a turning point. American history expresses the opinion that the turning point in the great war between the States of America in the fratricidal war of the 60's was the battle of Gettysburg. In like manner the election of Dr. Fuller to the principalship of Howe Institute was the great turning point in the life of that splendid school of the Baptist denomination in the State of Tennessee. Notwithstanding the splendid scholarship and determined efforts of Professor J. Levister in the principalship of Howe Institute, the school seemed to have fallen upon evil days. It was staggering under a great debt; its buildings were in a state of dilapidation. The "ghost" seldom walked among the teachers, either by night or by day. The peculiar conditions governing the founding of the school by its pioneers and benefactors were a heavy handicap to the progress of the school. The restrictions governing its management had alienated many of the best and most loyal members of the denomination, and instead of having the active and militant co-operation of the hosts of the denomination, there were strife and division. Dr. Fuller's taking hold of the reins of authority at that crucial time in the history of the school was the beginning of better days for the school. He was not a novice in school supervision and school management, for he had founded two or more similar institutions in his native State, and he came to the principalship of Howe with the prestige of success already achieved in a similar official capacity. He had had long experience in public life, and he was well acquainted with the methods to pursue with men or measures in order to get the best results for the cause for which he was working. His tact, diplomacy, common sense and general endowment by nature had full opportunity for display in solving the conditions that confronted his administration.

HOWE INSTITUTE, Memphis, Tenn.



(1) Teachers Cottage

(2) Girls Dormitory

(3) Chapel and Boys Dormitory

His first great task was to gain peace and clearly establish the relationship of Howe Institute to the Baptists of the State of Tennessee. After laboring before the various Baptist conventions of the State for two years, his statement of the Howe Institute side of the controversy was so clear and so forcible that all parties were convinced and the angel of peace again hovered over the deliberations of that august body. The rights of Howe Institute were conceded and the institution came into its just inheritance from the loyal Baptists of the State of Tennessee. In securing this much-to-be-desired peace, Dr. Fuller played the role of pacificator as effectively as did Henry Clay, the great pacificator of ante-bellum times, for he brought into a cohesive mass a lot of disgruntled and inharmonious elements that had been at variance for a long time.

WHAT HE HAS ACCOMPLISHED AT HOWE INSTITUTE.

The doctor reorganized the entire faculty of Howe Institute and changed its business methods. Instead of the teachers' salaries being dependent upon the receipts from tuition from the students, which had always been done before the new order of things under Dr. Fuller, the new principal made efforts to secure the salaries of the teachers of the school through appropriations and gifts. He succeeded in rallying to the support of the school the entire Baptist constituency of the State of Tennessee, as far as such an effort was in the range of human possibility. The various churches, clubs, societies and individuals came to the rescue of the school and put it on a substantial working basis. The efforts of Dr. Fuller had been not only to enlist the careful co-operation of his own people, but to seek the financial assistance of the great Baptist Home Mission Board, which has done such wonderful things for the colored people of this Southland. It is the wish of the Baptist Home Mission Board to encourage and assist those who are worthy of assistance and who are striving to do something. The spirit of the age is not to encourage mendicancy and abject dependence, but to help a man to help himself. The vigorous manner in which Dr. Fuller took hold of the affairs of Howe Institute convinced the educational powers that he was the right man in the right place, and that with proper encouragement the school would be made a blessing to the cause of human progress, instead of a ruthless waste of the hard-earned money of consecrated men and women, who had contributed it for the best purpose to which it could be put.

Through the activity, influence and hard work of the doctor, the sum of \$25,000 in cash has been secured from Northern friends and the colored Baptists of Tennessee. The school, which was valued at \$20,000 at the time of Dr. Fuller's election to the principalship, is

now valued at over \$60,000, and it is doubtful if the trustees of the school would be willing to dispose of it for a sum of money greatly in excess of that sum. The school plant in the course of a few years will easily be worth one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000). During his administration the campus has been increased to about twice its original size, and thereon have been erected a teachers' cottage and a commodious and substantial girls' dormitory and Science Hall. The Clara Howe Building is a large three-story building of brick and concrete. Various departments have been added to the school until its facilities compare favorably with any institution of similar grade in the South. The collections of the school from all sources have been more than doubled during the incumbency of the present principal. Since the appointment of Miss Lula B. Greenlaw in 1905 to the position of bookkeeper of the school, the collections have increased from \$1,200 to \$2,500 per annum. The curriculum of the school has been so enlarged and strengthened that its graduates are able to make a very creditable entrance to the colleges and universities of the country. A highly capable instructor is employed in the industrial department of the school, and the work of the students in that department is being brought up to a high degree of efficiency.

SPARKS FROM THE ANVIL OF HIS CAREER IN THE MINISTRY.

Dr. T. O. Fuller is a many-sided man, and has successfully acquitted himself in every capacity in which he has served. He was prudent and wise as a legislator in his native State; he has a qualification of the highest order in the school room; he is the personification of shrewdness in business and financial matters. But all of these qualifications have been mere incidents in his long and successful career as a public man. The real life work of the doctor, and the one in which he is interested far beyond all others, is that of the gospel ministry. He has been actively engaged in the ministry since the year of 1886, and thus soon will have rounded out a quarter of a century in continuous and efficient service for the Master. In the year of 1890 he was ordained in the work of the gospel ministry, and his first pastorate was the Belton Creek Church, four miles south of Oxford, N. C. The congregation at first consisted of four members, and their place of worship was in a log hut which was also used for school purposes. Through his marvelous efforts and spiritual power, this humble church, in the course of two years, grew from four members to one hundred and fifty members. So wonderful was his work in his first church, and such a great reputation did he gain in a short time as an eloquent and effective minister of the gospel, that he received calls to the pas-

torate of eleven different churches in the course of a single year. In the fullness of time and the maturity of his experience, he accepted some of the charges that were offered him, and he experienced in every instance the blessings of ministerial success for which he had hoped and prayed.

HIS MINISTERIAL HONORS IN NORTH CAROLINA.

While serving as a minister in the Old North State, he was the worthy recipient of many honors from the Baptists of his native State. He was Vice Moderator of the Shiloh Missionary Baptist Association. He was elected Recording Secretary of the North Carolina State Sunday School Convention, but for reasons which he considered satisfactory he finally decided not to accept the great honor. His ability and success as a minister were highly appreciated by the Baptists of the State, and some of the best charges in the State were at his pleasure to accept.

HE CAST HIS LOT IN THE CITY OF MEMPHIS, TENN.

Dr. Fuller went to the city of Memphis in the month of August, 1900, to visit the charge to which he had been recommended by Dr. S. N. Vass. His visit was satisfactory, and he decided to locate permanently in the city on the banks of the mighty Father of Waters. With this object in view he returned to his home in North Carolina, adjusted all of his affairs and moved to the city of Memphis in the month of November, 1900, to take charge of the pastorate of the First Baptist Church of that city. His coming to the city of Memphis was the signal for a general revival along all lines, educational, religious and material. He proved to be a wise and far-sighted leader for his people, and they have never ceased to congratulate themselves for having as their pastor and leader one of the most gifted Baptist preachers in America. Under his leadership a new and beautiful place of worship has been built, the membership greatly increased, the working organizations of the church multiplied, the obligations of the congregation met in a business-like manner, and a general improvement all along the line. The doctor has one of the most loyal congregations in the country, and he has wisely steered clear of those unfortunate wrangles and church feuds that are so prevalent in churches of all denominations, and which cause never-ending embarrassment and everlasting harm, not only to the cause of religion, but to good morals and good fellowship in the community. The First Baptist Church has risen to the proud position of one of the leading churches in the city of Memphis. The combined influence of the school, with which the church is in

hearty affiliation, and the doctor's own magnetic personality, have helped to make the congregation of the First Baptist Church one of the most intelligent and one of the most progressive in the State of Tennessee. The pioneers of that church dared to cut loose from hide-bound tradition and blaze a new path along the line their intelligence and religious belief led them. All honor is due the faithful few who, like the Pilgrim Fathers of olden times, braved every adversity for the sake of their religious opinions.

HIS POLITICAL CAREER.

The political experience of the doctor, and the consequent national renown he gained therefrom, were not the result of any cherished political aspirations on his part. It was while he was laboring in Warrenton that the opportunity came which made him the available candidate of the Republican party for a seat in the Senate of the State of North Carolina. It happened that his county was one of the banner Republican counties of the State from the standpoint of the colored voter, and had always sent its party representative to the State legislature. In the year of 1898 a vacancy occurred in the senatorial nomination, caused by the resignation of the white candidate, who had accepted another nomination at the hands of the party. The great ability of Dr. Fuller commended him to the rank and file of the powerful Republican constituency, and he was tendered the Republican nomination for the Senate. Of course, he had not gone to that section of the State to follow a political career, but to perform faithfully his duties as principal of the school and pastor of the church in that place. His natural inclination was to decline the proffered nomination for the sake of his duties to the people, whom he had gone to Warrenton to serve. He was given the assurance that he would not be expected to make a political canvass for the office, because the overwhelming Republican constituency made such a canvass unnecessary; but the exigencies of the political situation, owing to the multiplicity of ambitious candidates and the various kaleidoscopic "regularities" and "irregularities" that were incident to the campaign, made it necessary for the doctor to take more than a mere casual or perfunctory interest in his own candidacy. He did make some political speeches in the turbulent campaign, and his wise utterances, tactful diplomacy and evident sincerity of purpose clarified the situation, poured oil on the troubled political waters and caused all of the bickerings to cease. He was triumphantly elected to the Senate of North Carolina, and thus in one leap he went from the position of a private citizen to the exalted station of a member of the Senate of the State of North Carolina.

IN THE SENATE OF NORTH CAROLINA.

The 4th of January 1899 was the eventful day for the convening of the legislature to which he had been elected. It was generally known throughout the State that a Negro legislator had been elected to a seat in the Senate of North Carolina, and there was much curiosity on the part of the white people to see the Negro who was playing such a conspicuous part in the political life of the Old North State. Therefore, it was no great wonder that he was the observed of all the members, the cynosure of all eyes. The record of Senator Fuller in the legislature of North Carolina would have been a credit to the proudest Caucasian in the State. There was some little degree of embarrassment due to his unique political status, but he met the conditions with so much tact, diplomacy and magnanimity that his course not only excited the admiration of many of his legislative colleagues, but made for him among them many dear friends for life. Since it was the good fortune of the race to be represented in the Senate of the Old North State, it was well that the race had as its representative one of the best educated, one of the most brilliant and one of the ablest men of the race. Whatever may have been the natural prejudices of the white race toward the opposite race, it was indeed fortunate that the race had such a worthy representative in the halls of legislation, not only to look after the interests of the colored race, but to show to the world the brightest side of Negro character, Negro ability and Negro manhood. While comparisons are generally considered to be odious, yet it was no disparagement to the brilliant and able colored senator to have compared him in every necessary qualification with almost any other member of that august legislative body of able men and statesmen. Blessed with an unusual endowment by nature, a graduate of one of the leading universities of the South, gifted in all the graces of moral and intellectual power, he was easily one of the foremost members of the North Carolina Senate. His gifted oratory was a revelation to the Senate, and in an assembly of eloquent and able men, he was one of the most eloquent and one of the ablest. It was an era in the deliberations of the Senate when the Senator from Warren County received the recognition of the presiding officer of that chamber. His extraordinary eloquence was not wasted, for it was made effective in several legislative measures of importance bearing on the welfare of the race.

HIS LEGISLATIVE EFFORT FOR HIS RACE.

He secured the passage of the following bills affecting the welfare of his race in the State of North Carolina:

1. Through his untiring efforts, the bill for the reduction of the

State normal schools for colored people from seven to four in number was defeated and the seven luminaries of learning were saved in their entirety to the race. The State of North Carolina has a most admirable system of normal schools for the education of colored youth, and the fact that the State has not lost its pre-eminence in this respect was due to the legislative sagacity of Senator T. O. Fuller of Warren County.

2. He drafted and secured the passage of a bill giving the Superior Court of his county concurrent jurisdiction (criminal jurisdiction) in all criminal cases. As the Criminal Court itself held its sessions only once in six months, the criminal jurisdiction of the Superior Court made it possible for the county prison to be cleared of its inmates every three months, and thus save much expense on the part of the citizens of the county.

3. Through his timely influence the Warren County Dispensary Bill was passed, abolishing the open barroom and substituting for it the Dispensary Bill, which allowed no public drinking in the usual places and permitted the sale of liquor in packages only. This legislation was a great triumph for common decency and public morality, for it largely eliminated the persistent and shameless inebriate from public observation and removed from public sight the temptation which is the degradation and ruination of the youth and manhood of the race.

4. He was instrumental in the passage of the bill that incorporated the North Carolina Mutual and Provident Association, whose home office is at Durham, North Carolina. This insurance company of the Negro race is one of the largest and one of the strongest of its kind in the United States of America, and its great success has demonstrated the administrative capacity and financial shrewdness of the race.

As a legislator he had ever in mind the welfare of his constituency and the honor of the Negro race. He did his work well, and he is entitled to the lasting appreciation and regard of the members of his race. He had the unique honor of being called "The Last Negro Member of the Senate of North Carolina," which is only too true up to this present time, but who can turn back the veil of the future and tell exactly what it has in store for the American Negro in the political arena? Great political honors have been conferred upon the Negro in the past, and no one is so wise that he can say with absolute assurance that the Negro will not be a factor in the political life of the nation in the future, as he has been in the past. History has a strange way of repeating itself, and the political pendulum does not always swing in the same direction in any part of this free and united republic.

HIS PRE-EMINENCE AS AN ORATOR.

Among the many powers of the doctor, which cause him to shine as a star of the first magnitude among his people, is his wonderful gift of oratory. In this department of human excellence he is second to few, if any, men in the republic, irrespective of race. As a pulpit orator he is one of the marvels of the times. With due respect to some of the mighty doctors of divinity who are heralded far and wide as the greatest preachers of the Baptist denomination, the writer begs leave to enroll the name of Dr. Fuller among those immortals. The writer has had the pleasure of listening to the special efforts of some of the greatest preachers of the Baptist denomination, and he has not, to this time, seen one of them come before his audience better prepared for the mastery of his subject, endowed with more real eloquence, and seemingly blessed with greater ability. The doctor has an extraordinary vocabulary, and the choicest and most elegant words marshal themselves in vocal battalions to do his bidding. The fact is, his display of expressive and accurate words borders on the marvelous. His eloquence has a readiness and spontaneity that are seldom seen in the public speakers of the present day. As an orator on a great demonstrative occasion he can literally soar into the empyrean. Whatever the occasion may be, his oratorical efforts are never a disappointment. He is a man of such ripe scholarship and such great natural endowment that he can always measure up to any reasonable expectation. He is not only an orator, but he is a profound thinker and reasoner. There is a poetic strain in his character, and that to a great extent accounts for the beauty and chasteness of his diction. The poetic strain gives him an unconscious tendency to the use of metaphorical language, and in the excitement of his discourse he rivals the rhetorical florescence of the late Col. Robert G. Ingersoll, the prince of rhetoricians and orators, but the resemblance between these two gentlemen ceases with their intellectual and moral endowment.

HIS STATUS AS A RACE LEADER.

The term "race leader" is one that is used so indiscriminately that, for the purposes of this book, the writer prefers to use it rather advisedly. The mere education and social prominence of a man in a community do not confer upon him the powers of leadership, for in every community of the South there will be found men of the highest intellectual attainments who take no active part in the struggles of the race to reach higher intellectual and moral ground, and who are as impotent in their influence with the masses of their people as the man is with the horse that is running away with him.

Intelligent leadership of the race must be both wise and discreet. In the Southland, where the warp and woof of the social fabric are most complicated, those elements of character are most essential to successful race leadership which enable the colored man to lead his people without friction in the paths of wisdom, peace, happiness and prosperity. Early in his career as a public man Dr. Fuller learned from practical experience the advantage of cultivating the spirit of good feeling and friendly co-operation between the two races in the South. The common impulses of humanity are fundamentally the same in all races, and need only careful cultivation in order to fructify into an abundant harvest. It was the good fortune of the doctor early in his career as a public man to put into execution his ideas governing the relation of the two races in the South, and the result was of the most satisfactory character in every instance. In his efforts to buy lands and build schools and churches for his people in his native State of North Carolina, he was given substantial assistance and shown courtesies and kindnesses for which he will ever be grateful. Knowing the good and benefit that emanate from the cultivation of a friendly spirit toward the dominant race of the South, and having been in countless instances the beneficiary of the kindness of the white race, it is not unreasonable to ascribe to the doctor the qualification for the highest and most successful leadership of his race in this Southland. He is noted for his sanity and conservatism on all questions affecting the welfare of both races. He is not a member of the ancient and honorable order of fire-eaters and race frictionists. He does not believe that the race question can be justly settled by physical force and violence; for the tribunal of violence and bloodshed has already been invoked far too often. He believes in the principles of the Bible and the Golden Rule, and that these two great sources of inspiration are sufficient to solve all of the race problems on all of the planets of the solar system. His prudent, diplomatic and wise leadership has been in evidence in countless instances, looking toward the solution of problems affecting the welfare of both races. With a heart that is absolutely without malice toward a single human being, and prayerfully desirous of bringing the two races to a better understanding with each other, Dr. Fuller has done a work that is second to no other colored man in the South. Since his coming to the city of Memphis, a perfect stranger in the year of 1900, it is more than probable that his manly course and disinterested labors for the welfare of his race have won for him among the white people of the city of Memphis a wider acquaintance and a more grateful appreciation than have ever been bestowed upon a colored citizen of the city in all of its history. Just as his friendly attitude to the dominant race has gained the favor, good will and support of

the members of that race, he is strengthened in the belief that a similar attitude on the part of the masses of the colored race would cement the natural bond of friendship between the two races, largely eradicate the venom of prejudice and cause each race to rejoice in the friendship and brotherly love of the other race.

HIS LITERARY HONORS.

In the month of May, 1890, on the occasion of his graduation from the college department of Shaw University, Raleigh, N. C., he was the only member of his original class of forty members to be awarded the coveted degree of Bachelor of Arts. After his graduation he pursued the necessary literary study for three years, whereupon his alma mater conferred upon him the degree of Master of Arts in the year of 1893. Dr. Fuller is an ambitious man, and he has ever been desirous of preparing himself for the highest degree of service to his people. He is an untiring student to this day, and his laudable efforts to cultivate his mind have made him a willing investigator in the domain of science, literature and the arts. In the year of 1906, after he had successfully served in the principalship of Howe Institute for four years, the A. & M. College of Normal, Ala., the institution of learning over whose destiny the lamented Professor William H. Council presided for so many years, conferred upon the subject of this sketch the honorary degree of Doctor of Philosophy. In the year of 1910, after twenty years of efficient and conspicuous service in the gospel ministry, his alma mater, without his knowledge at the time, conferred upon him the exalted degree of Doctor of Divinity. Thus it is that Dr. T. O. Fuller has the prestige of four great degrees, the possession of any one of which would be a great honor to any man. The doctor wears his honors with becoming modesty, and from a mere casual intercourse with him, one would not judge by any pretensions on his part that the doctor is one of the best equipped men of the Negro race in the United States of America.

HIS SUCCESS AS A BUSINESS MAN AND FINANCIER.

Dr. Fuller has every instinct of a successful business man. He has the happy faculty of applying practical business methods to every enterprise with which he may be connected. His church's finances are looked after in a business-like way, and his school is conducted along safe and sane business lines. With him business is the science of living, and he applies business principles to all matters of importance. He is a man of unusual shrewdness in financial matters, and if he had elected to pursue a strictly business career he would have become one of the modern kings of finance of the

race. When a needy student at Shaw University this business instinct of his manifested itself by taking advantage of the gastronomic necessities of his fellow students. He kept twenty-five cents invested in cakes to be purchased by students that might become hungry between meal times at the university. On this small investment he realized enough profit to pay for his own cakes and to have a few pennies for other purposes. The doctor has a keen eye for a business proposition. He believes in the potency of investment and the benefit that must accrue from the use of dollars which work by night and by day as willing slaves for their masters. The following chapter will give some idea of his activity and prominence as a business man.

HIS BUSINESS CONNECTIONS AND WEALTH.

Since locating in the city of Memphis a decade ago, Dr. Fuller has become substantially identified with the business and material interests of the city. He has not shown himself to be a mere visionary and impractical school man, but he has demonstrated the fact that he is a first-class educator as well as a first-class business man. He is President of the Mount Carmel Cemetery of Memphis, Tenn., a company that was organized in the year of 1909 and capitalized at \$60,000. This cemetery contains twenty-five acres of high and rolling ground, and is splendidly located as a "Home for the Dead." From the very beginning of its existence the affairs of the cemetery have gone along in a quiet, satisfactory, business-like manner, and its promoters have had no regrets concerning the success of their venture in this instance. In a business of such a character it is not necessary to beat tom toms and burn flash fire in order to excite the attention of the public. The interring of the dead is a grave undertaking, and needs no evidence of exultation on the part of its business promoters. The doctor is one of the heaviest stockholders in the company, and his able business judgment has been a large factor in determining the success of the undertaking.

He is prominently connected in an official way with the Solvent Savings Bank & Trust Company, of Memphis, Tenn., and he is a member of the Executive Committee and of the Board of Directors of the same bank. He is one of the substantial stockholders of that institution, and his financial standing contributes much to its business solidity. He is a stockholder in the Standard Life Insurance Company of Atlanta, Ga., one of the prospective great life insurance companies of the race. He is the owner of twenty shares of stock in the Powhatan Zinc & Lead Mining Company of the State of Arkansas. This is a big company of wealthy white capitalists, and has alluring business prospects for success. His holding of stock in this company is a compliment from some of his white

friends and admirers, who gave him the opportunity to make this particular investment in a profitable venture.

The doctor is one of the largest realty holders of color in the city of Memphis. Since locating in that city he has bought and practically paid for nearly sixty pieces of improved and unimproved property in that city. He has twenty acres of valuable farm land at Terrell, Crittenden County, Arkansas. The value of this farm land is enhanced by its proximity to the Frisco Railroad, which runs across a part of it. In the city of Raleigh, North Carolina, he is the owner of two pieces of real estate of considerable value. He is also the owner of a lot in Lincoln Heights, Washington, D. C. As a rule, many ministers of the gospel are poor financiers for themselves and their own interests, but this reflection does not apply to Dr. Fuller, who is in a class by himself as a financier. In giving an estimate of the wealth of Dr. Fuller, the writer desires to state that he had access to the doctor's legal and official papers from which to make a computation. The doctor is a gentleman of known veracity, and his word itself has the stability of a government bond, but in a matter of this character it is often best to fortify one's estimate by the looking at the documentary proof. The business-like methods of the doctor are shown particularly in his systematic manner of classifying and scheduling his various stock investments and realty purchases. His efficient private secretary and accomplished stenographer, Miss Lula I. Hobson, carefully scrutinizes and tabulates every business document of the doctor, and the same is at her service in a moment's notice. Judging from the documentry data shown to the writer, the wealth of Dr. T. O. Fuller may be conservatively estimated at thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000).

DR. T. O. FULLER AS AN AUTHOR.

Notwithstanding the busy career of the doctor as a public man, he has taken time to contribute his share to the literary excellence of the nation. In addition to the numerous pamphlets, brochures and booklets of various character that he has written, he is the author of one of the most interesting publications of recent years. The book is entitled, "Twenty Years in Public Life," and it is an interesting, fascinating recital of many of the incidents of his experience in public life. It is a book that chains one's attention while it charms, and it has all of the attractive features of a fascinating novel. The doctor's style of writing is highly entertaining, and any person will be highly repaid for the effort of reading the doctor's most timely and most interesting book. In the course of a few years the doctor will probably publish a volume of sermons and public discourses, which ought to be a rich contribution to the literature of the race.



MRS. ROSA B. FULLER

THE PARTNER OF HIS SUCCESSSES AND JOYS.

Two conditions have conduced to the extraordinary success of Dr. Fuller as a public man, viz., his own unusual ability and the untiring devotion and loyalty of his estimable wife. Mrs. Rosa B. Fuller is a native of the State of Tennessee, and has the honor of being a graduate of the school of which she is now the worthy preceptress. She exemplifies in her daily life many of the noblest qualities of mind and heart for which her sex is noted. She has for years contributed her time and talents for the uplift of the young men and young women of Howe Institute and the Memphis community, and no worker in the vineyard of the Master will be entitled to greater reward than this kindly "Angel Mother" of Howe Institute. In the possession of such a resourceful, accomplished and devoted wife, the worthy doctor would be rich in earthly goods even if he did not have a penny in his possession. The doctor is a man that is blessed with a splendid education, a devoted and loving wife and prospects of the brightest character.

Charles Banks, Mound Bayou, Miss.

CASHIER OF THE BANK OF MOUND BAYOU AND PRESIDENT OF THE
MISSISSIPPI NEGRO BUSINESS LEAGUE.



IN order to have a progressive race, there must be certain fundamental elements in the character of its members. The milestones along the road to success are marked with the indelible characters which in all the ages of mankind have safely guided the militant hosts to a higher and nobler life. These milestones are labeled intelligence, moral honor, industry, push and thrift, and that man who possesses these elements in his character will as inevitably succeed in the struggles of life as the night will follow the day. Of the many aggressive and progressive native sons of the State of Mississippi who have stamped the impress of their character upon the race institutions of their State and have contributed their time and talents to the progress and uplift of the race along material and other lines, no one is entitled to more credit than that human dynamo of business energy, push and brains, Mr. Charles Banks, of Mound Bayou, Miss.

HIS BIRTHPLACE.

Mr. Banks is one of the scintillating stars in the firmament of his native State, and was born in Clarksdale, March 25, 1873. Born as he was in the rich delta section of his native State, teeming with unlimited possibilities for an intelligent, ambitious man, the subject of this sketch had unlimited opportunity to cultivate and exercise in his home community those sterling qualities of energy and high class capacity for business for which he is noted today.

HIS EDUCATION.

The subject of this narrative is a man that is thoroughly equipped both by education and experience for the battles of life. His elementary education was received in the public schools of his home community, but his college training was received at Rust University, Holly Springs, Miss., one of the leading institutions of learning in the Southland. When a student of Rust University he made the most of his opportunities to prepare himself for the career of usefulness and success which he is now living.



CHARLES BANKS

**MANY FLASHLIGHTS IN HIS CAREER AS A BUSINESS MAN.
A MERCHANT IN CLARKSDALE.**

Early in life Mr. Banks elected to pursue a business career. There was always something in mercantile or business life that had a fascination for him. The dull, prosaic life on the farm had virtually no attraction for him as a life work in comparison with the excitement and exchange that are incipient to a business career. He has always liked the jingle and clink of the dollars of commerce, and their sound is as pleasing to his ears as the rhapsody of a Beethoven sonata. He entered mercantile life in Clarksdale, Miss., in the year of 1889, when a mere boy, and continued in business for fifteen years, or until the year of 1903. In the month of November, 1903, he retired from the mercantile business in Clarksdale, Miss., moved to the town of Mound Bayou and cast his lot for weal or woe with the good people of that progressive and unique settlement.

THE FOUNDER OF THE BANK OF MOUND BAYOU.

It was due to the initiative, persistence, financial strength and popularity of Mr. Banks that the Bank of Mound Bayou was organized and put into operation in the year of 1904. The Bank of Mound Bayou, located as it is in one of the richest farming sections of the delta, and amidst a teeming population of hard-working, energetic and thrifty members of the race, is one of the most successful financial institutions of the race. It does an enormous amount of business in the crop harvesting time of the year, and in that season of the year the deposits in that bank will run up into the thousands of dollars in the course of a single day. The Bank of Mound Bayou is capitalized at \$25,000, and its officers and directors are some of the wealthiest men in the State. The quarterly statement of the bank shows that its resources are in excess of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000).

THE ORGANIZER OF THE MISSISSIPPI NEGRO BUSINESS LEAGUE.

In the year of 1905, at Greenville, Mississippi, Mr. Banks was instrumental in organizing the Mississippi Negro Business League. As an honor that was due to him, both as the promoter of the league and a man experienced in successful business life, he was elected the first President of the State League, and has been honored with re-election to that office at each annual meeting of the league since its organization. As President of the league, his wise and aggressive leadership has done much to encourage and stimulate business enterprises among the members of the race, not only in the State of

Mississippi, but throughout the South. The session of the State League was held in the town of Mound Bayou in the summer of 1910, and was one of the most successful meetings in the history of the league.

HIS OFFICIAL CONNECTION WITH THE NATIONAL NEGRO BUSINESS LEAGUE.

In the year of 1901, at its annual session in Chicago, Ill., Mr. Banks was elected Third Vice-President of the National Negro Business League. In the year of 1907 at Topeka, Kansas, he was elected First Vice-President of the National Negro Business League, and has been honored with re-election to that office at each annual session of the league since that time. In the deliberations of that distinguished body of successful Negroes there have been but few men whose utterances have been listened to with such rapt attention and such unconcealed interest as those of Mr. Charles Banks. He is a power in the councils of the National League, and a worthy representative of the South.

THE MOUND BAYOU OIL MILL & MANUFACTURING COMPANY.

In the year of 1907 the fertile mind and far-seeing genius of Mr. Banks organized the Mound Bayou Oil Mill & Manufacturing Company. The erection of the mammoth buildings of the plant began in the year of 1908. So far as obtainable records show, this enterprise is the largest manufacturing plant of the race in the whole of America. Its erection is not only a compliment to the aggressive business ideas of Mr. Banks, but it is a monument to the architectural and constructive genius of the Negro race. Everything that is connected with the building has been done by Negro brain and Negro muscle. The estimated cost of the plant is one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000). This manufactory, situated in the very heart of the cotton industry of the Southland, can transform the cotton seed into cotton seed oil, cotton seed meal, cotton seed fertilizing substances, and their numerous by-products. This is an age of utility and the toiling farmers of the South are entitled to receive the benefit of every possible product that can be manufactured from the cotton on their farms. Hence the operation of this plant will be a Godsend to the farmers of that region, for it will enable them to utilize everything from their cotton except the dew and the frost on the stalks.

THE MOUND BAYOU LAND & INVESTMENT COMPANY.

In the year of 1906 Mr. Banks organized the Mound Bayou Land & Investment Company, with an authorized capital of fifty thou-

sand dollars (\$50,000). In the organization of this company Mr. Banks put into operation a scheme of beneficence that has been as far-reaching in its effect as it was novel in its conception. It has ever been the desire of the founders and leaders of the Mound Bayou settlement to have a strictly Negro community, both as to race and the ownership of the land. When Mr. Banks first moved to the town of Mound Bayou he found that many farms of the colored people were mortgaged for various sums of money to white capitalists and speculators. He immediately perceived the fact that if nothing were done to relieve the condition of the farmers by helping them to pay off the encumbrances on their lands much of the valuable land that was in the possession of the colored farmers would ultimately revert to the white capitalists and money lenders to whom the lands had been mortgaged. To the thoughtful and far-seeing mind of Mr. Banks such a possibility was fraught with danger to the future welfare and integrity of the Mound Bayou settlement. In order to prevent such a possibility by providing money for the payment of all mortgages either on or before the date of their maturity, the Mound Bayou Land & Investment Company was organized. This company has wisely carried out the purposes for which it was brought into existence. It has wrought in a legitimate and business-like way a great and salutary change in the social and material status of many deserving members of the race, and it demonstrates in a practical way how much real strength there is in united action and what the race is capable of accomplishing when the minds, hearts and financial resources of its members are working in a common and worthy cause. In having taken the initiative in launching this great race enterprise Mr. Banks has shown himself to be a real benefactor to his race.

A DIRECTOR OF TWO GREAT LIFE INSURANCE COMPANIES.

Mr. Banks is one of the directors of the Union Guaranty Insurance Company of Mississippi, a corporation capitalized at \$50,000 and chartered under the laws of that State for the purpose of doing a general life insurance and bonding business. He is also one of the directors of the Mississippi Beneficial Life Insurance Company of the same State, a corporation that seems destined to play a very conspicuous part in the life insurance business of the colored people of the United States. In connection with his activities in the life insurance business, Mr. Banks is one of the trustees of Campbell College, Jackson, Miss., one of the leading educational institutions of the A. M. E. Church. He is also one of the trustees of Utica Normal and Industrial Institute, of which Prof. W. H. Holtzclaw is President.

HIS RELIGIOUS PROMINENCE.

Mr. Banks has ever been a prominent factor in the religious life of his race. He is a member of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, and notwithstanding the fact that he is a layman, he has been singularly honored by the heads of that church. In the year of 1896 he was elected a delegate to the General Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, which convened in Wilmington, N. C., and he has been honored with election to every general conference since that year up to the present time. He is considered one of the pillars of Methodism in his State, and his loyalty and fidelity to his branch of the great Christian Church have meant much to its welfare and progress.

HIS POLITICAL CAREER.

It would not seem natural for a man of Mr. Banks' active and aggressive temperament to be satisfied without participating to some extent in politics. While he is a business man rather than a politician, yet the fact that he is interested in the political welfare of his people should be a matter of commendation instead of censure.

Whatever differences of opinion there may be with reference to the participation of the race in politics, there can be no doubt of the fact that any intelligent, law-abiding citizen that does not exercise his privileges under the constitution of the land is generally looked upon with suspicion and disfavor.

In the year of 1890 Mr. Banks served as census enumerator in his district. In the year of 1900 the Secretary of the Interior, Hon. Ethan A. Hitchcock, appointed Mr. Banks Supervisor of the Twelfth Census for the Third Supervisor's District of Mississippi. He was elected a delegate to the National Republican Convention from the Third Mississippi District in 1904, while in the year of 1908 he was a delegate at large from his State to the National Republican Convention at Chicago.

Mr. Banks was appointed Colonel on the staff of Hon. J. W. Lyons in the great parade in the city of Washington, D. C., on the occasion of the inauguration of Hon. Theodore Roosevelt as President and Hon. Charles W. Fairbanks as Vice-President of the United States of America.

Mr. Banks was the original Taft supporter in the State of Mississippi in the now historic campaign for the Republican nomination for the presidency in the year of 1908, and with voice and pen he did more than possibly any other man to turn popular support in the direction of Mr. Taft's candidacy. Having been such a

valiant supporter of the candidacy of Mr. Taft for the nomination, Mr. Banks was the choice of the delegates of his race to second the nomination of the party's standard bearer, but for the sake of political expediency this honor was not conferred upon him.

HIS EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES.

That Mr. Banks is thoroughly in sympathy with the educational interests of the race is demonstrated by the fact that more along educational lines has been done by him for the town of Mound Bayou and the surrounding country than has been done by the combined efforts of all other forces. It was largely through his influence and solicitation that the Carnegie Library was given to the town of Mound Bayou, Mississippi. Also, the Jeanes Fund has been made available through his efforts. This fund is one of the great philanthropic acts of recent years, and has for its object the encouragement and development of rural schools in communities where the resources of the county are not sufficient to provide means for the proper running of the schools for a reasonable length of time during the year.

One of the most substantial advantages that has been gained for the Mound Bayou settlement through the efforts of Mr. Banks was the appointment of a government agricultural expert for the benefit of the farmers. This expert is paid a salary by the general government, and it is his duty to make demonstrations of the best methods of farming and to teach practical things along the line of agricultural economy.

Mr. Banks had personal charge of Dr. Booker T. Washington's itinerary through the State of Mississippi. Many who were in position to know pronounce the itinerary of the doctor to have been one of the best planned and one of the most successful in the history of his travels through the country. The distinguished visitor was tendered a continuous ovation the entire length of his journey, and the illustrious George Washington of the early days of the republic was not more joyfully received on his journey to the capital of the nation in order to take in hand the reins of government than his distinguished namesake of a different race and generation was received by his appreciative and admiring countrymen.

HIS GREATEST SUCCESS.

In the year of 1893, before reaching his majority, Mr. Banks achieved one of the greatest successes of his eventful career when he won and led to the altar Miss Trennie Ophelia Booze, of Natchez,

Miss. She was a student of the Natchez Baptist College, one of the leading educational institutions of the State of Mississippi. Among her many claims to the appreciation and gratitude of her race is the fact that she was for some time a teacher in the schools of her native State. She is a highly intelligent and refined woman, and such a companion as can ornament and bless the home of a worthy and appreciative man. If Mr. Banks has made any unusual headway up the hill of life, the accomplishment has largely been due to the encouragement and devotion of his wife. She is one that is loyal and



RESIDENCE OF MR. AND MRS. CHARLES BANKS,
MOUND BAYOU, MISS.

MRS. CHARLES BANKS,

true to the interests of her husband, and capable of giving to him that encouragement, advice and support that a successful business man must have to enable him to steer clear of the Scylla and Charybdis of business misfortune. She is noted for her many domestic accomplishments and for her genuine hospitality.

HIS PALATIAL HOME.

In the year of 1908 Mr. Banks had erected for his use the most palatial residence in the delta section of the State. It is constructed on modern plans and it is commodious enough to house a small-sized army. It is provided with every convenience and comfort that the heart or mind can desire, and should satisfy the ambition of any one. The approximate cost of this most magnificent home in the delta was ten thousand dollars (\$10,000). The rich barons of olden times did not live in more real comfort and security than does the subject of this sketch in his palatial home.

SECRETARY-TREASURER OF THE MASONIC BENEFIT ASSOCIATION.

In the month of December, 1910, at Holly Springs, Miss., Mr. Banks was elected by an overwhelming vote to the responsible position of Secretary-Treasurer of the Masonic Benefit Association. It is one of the most responsible positions in the gift of the order and worthy of the aspirations of any man. In this official capacity it is his bounden duty to look after the endowment finances of the order and see that each policy is paid to the proper and legal beneficiary. His office as Secretary-Treasurer is located at Mound Bayou, Miss., and in it there are employed nine clerks for the proper and expeditious performance of the duties of the office. In the course of a fiscal year the sum of \$200,000 is collected and disbursed in proper channels.

This department of the order was organized in the year of 1880, and this fraternity has the honor of being one of the pioneer orders to establish the endowment scheme of beneficence which is now generally in force in every reputable fraternity in the land. The endowment policy of the order is \$700, and is thus one of the largest in the realm of lodgedom.

The Secretary-Treasurer has one of the best equipped offices in the State, and everything in it is on parity with his own up-to-date ideas. The office has the latest filing devices, which enable any member or any payment to be traced back to the establishment of the department in the year of 1880. •

A MAN IN SPLENDID CIRCUMSTANCES.

While the writer has no definite data showing the financial resources of the subject, yet there is every reason to believe that he is one of the wealthy colored men of the State of Mississippi. He is said to own a controlling interest in the Bank of Mound Bayou. He has some valuable city property, and he is also one of the largest

land holders of color in the delta section of his State. Connected as he is with all of the big corporations of the race in the State of Mississippi and a leading spirit in their management, there is no reason why the subject should not be one of the leading men of the State in point of wealth.

AN ACTIVE AND PROGRESSIVE LEADER.

Judging by the signs of the times, Mr. Banks is one of the coming men of the race in the State of Mississippi. He has many things in his favor to aid him in scaling to the very top of the ladder of success. He is young, healthy and popular, and all of his faculties are in their fullest development. He is a veritable human dynamo of activity and energy. He is connected with nearly every enterprise of note in the State of Mississippi, and is undoubtedly one of the busiest men in the State. He has a mind that is capable of continuous, incessant and interminable effort. It would be utterly impossible for an ordinary mind to keep in touch with the multitude of business affairs that daily form the routine of his life.

Mr. Banks has many of the elements of an ideal leader. He is a tireless worker. When he moved to Mound Bayou in the year of 1904 the force of his personality was immediately felt in the affairs of the town, and a wonderful change was wrought in the town in a very short time. The main public enterprises of the Mound Bayou settlement owe their inception and fruition to his leadership and ability. He has the power of initiative to an unusual degree and is able to think carefully over and attempt to do a dozen different things before an ordinary mind will have even waked up to the situation. While he is one brilliant star of the first magnitude in the town of Mound Bayou, Miss., he has surrounded himself with some very brilliant satellites. He has brought to the town to co-operate with him in business matters splendidly educated men as private secretaries, expert accountants and high class clerical experts. He has introduced new and virile red blood to build up the old municipal structure from its very foundation.

Mr. Banks has not a high per cent. of Anglo-Saxon blood in his veins, as every one knows. Therefore, the Negro race is entitled to receive full credit for his enterprise, genius and brains. He has every qualification for a born leader of men, and his success in this particular demonstrates the truth of the statement.

W. W. Cox, Indianola, Miss.

CASHIER DELTA PENNY SAVINGS BANK.

As the years succeeding the emancipation of the race have drifted into the dim mists of the past, and the race has gained in experience and knowledge of the world, it has been able to pause in its career and take an inventory of its stock in the material world. When it is considered that four million ex-slaves, wholly unprepared for citizenship, were literally turned loose in all of their ignorance and poverty on the cold charity of the master classes and the philanthropy of the world at large, the race has made marvelous progress. Not only has the per cent. of illiteracy been decreased many fold, but all of the evils that follow in the wake of illiteracy and ignorance have decreased in like ratio. The great increase in intelligence on the part of the race is reflected in the business life of the race, for it is in the domain of business life that all knowledge will be most effective and serviceable.

The business life of every race is a matter of evolution and comes only with increased knowledge of the world and confidence in the members of the race in their relationship with each other. The progress of the race in business life in the past few years has been indeed highly gratifying, and there seems to be at hand a regular tidal wave of business prosperity unprecedented in the history of the race. If the signs of the times look auspicious for the business life of the race it is due to the indefatigable efforts of the premier business men of the race, who have labored unceasingly to promote the business interests of the race.

BORN ON A PLANTATION.

Mr. W. W. Cox, one of the foremost and most aggressive business men of the race, is a native of the State in which he is so widely and so favorably known, and where he has resided all of his life. He was born on the Griffin plantation about four miles from Lexington, Mississippi, August 8, 1864, and he spent the days of his life working thereon until he was eleven years of age.

HIS EDUCATION.

The subject of this sketch attended the primitive schools of Holmes County, Miss., until he was eleven years old, at which time he was so precocious as well as so fortunate as to win a scholarship to Alcorn University. He attended Alcorn University for two



W. W. COX

years, or until he was thirteen years of age, when he returned home and worked in the postoffice at Lexington, Miss. This residence in Lexington, Miss., at that time was his first town experience, and he enjoyed the sensation to such a degree that he gladly served as mailing clerk in the postoffice for one and one-half years.

A SCHOOL TEACHER AT FOURTEEN YEARS.

At the early age of fourteen years he began his career in the teachers' profession in Holmes County, Miss., and by the time he had attained to the age of sixteen he had risen to the dignity of principal of one of the county schools and had two subordinate teachers with him. His object in teaching school at such an early age was to earn the money with which he might be able to complete his education.

BACK TO ALCORN UNIVERSITY.

At the age of seventeen the subject was fortunate enough to have earned sufficient money with which to return to Alcorn University, which he did, and he remained a student in the classic walls of that institution until he lacked only a few months of graduating, when his hard-earned money was exhausted and he was forced to beat a hasty retreat from the university. This sad and abrupt departure from Alcorn University put an end to the subject's active school days, and transferred his energies to the school room in another capacity.

WENT TO INDIANOLA, MISS., JANUARY 1, 1884.

The financial experience of the subject while a student in school was not without its benefit, for it taught him the real importance of the almighty dollar. Two or more times his depleted purse had caused him to quit school, and the last time he resolved to abandon school life and go to work. He had had so much experience with adversity that he was determined to better his condition. He had confidence in his ability to go to the top if he only had the opportunity. But he also remembered the old maxim that "opportunities are made, not found." and he took renewed courage in his ambition to succeed. He was willing to go to the very bottom in order to rise to his greatest possibilities. Having carefully thought of the best place where he might locate and grow up with the country of his adoption, it seemed to his ambitious mind that his prospects would be best promoted by seeking a backwoods, railroadless town, where conditions were most primitive, and where he would be able to take advantage of conditions better than would be possible in an old community. With this object in view he turned his adventurous

steps toward the isolated, sparsely populated and primitive village of Indianola, Miss. He had to quit Alcorn University on the 28th of December, 1883, and he arrived at the village of Indianola, January 1, 1884. It is not stated just in what manner Mr. Cox negotiated the distance between Alcorn University and Indianola, but as he was a very young, vigorous and determined man, it is more than probable that he walked, for his shoes showed much evidence of wear and tear when he arrived at Indianola, Miss., on that memorable New Year's Day with his feet nearly on the snowy ground and only seventy-five cents remaining in his pocket.

A SCHOOL TEACHER IN INDIANOLA.

The schoolmaster is not only the hope of every community, but he is also the hope of the nation. The coming of the subject to Indianola, Miss., to grow up with the community was indeed fortunate for all parties concerned, for it opened up to him a wide and important field for service, usefulness and financial advancement, and it provided for the youth of that community an earnest, capable and efficient teacher. Mr. Cox entered with determination and zeal upon the performance of his duties as teacher, but he always had an eye that was open for the chance to better his financial condition. He proved to be one of the most successful teachers in his county and enjoyed the honor of teaching the public school at Indianola from 1884 until 1890, when he resigned to accept a position in the Railway Postal Service.

INVESTED HIS FIRST \$500 IN LAND.

The subject of this sketch had learned from bitter experience what a disadvantage it is to be without money, and that experience was an ever-present incentive to him to save his money for the proverbially snowy day, for once in his life he had really been barefooted on a snowy day on the first of January, 1884. In a reasonable period of time after his location at Indianola he had succeeded in accumulating the sum of \$500, and consequently he was then rich beyond the dream of avarice. Just as soon as he had saved up this sum of money his innate business sagacity caused him to invest the whole in 160 acres of land in the year of 1887. The habit of buying and selling land is so deeply confirmed in the character of the subject that it is nearly second nature for him to do so.

A CLERK IN THE RAILWAY POSTAL SERVICE.

In the year of 1890 the career of the subject as a schoolmaster came to an end when he resigned his position in the Indianola pub-

lic school to accept a position as clerk in the Railway Mail Service. He served in the postal service from 1890 to 1905, or for fifteen years, without a single demerit. This record is nearly unprecedented in the records of the railway mail service. He was perhaps the most experienced and the most efficient clerk in his division of the service, and served as head clerk of his division for several years. Mr. Cox made good in the postal service, as he has done in every capacity, and the government service suffered a great loss when he resigned to devote his time fully to business pursuits.

CASHIER DELTA PENNY SAVINGS BANK.

On the 29th day of October, 1904, the Delta Penny Savings Bank of Indianola, Miss., was incorporated, and the bank opened for the transaction of business in 1905. This bank is capitalized at \$35,000, the greater part of which is already paid in. Situated in the fertile delta of the Yazoo River, amidst a teeming population of hard-working people, it is but reasonable that the bank should thrive. The subject of this sketch was elected to the responsible position of Cashier of the Delta Penny Savings Bank when it was organized, and his financial rating in the marts of commerce and his genius as a high class business man have helped to make the Negro bank at Indianola, Miss., the largest bank in the State of Mississippi.

THE SECOND LARGEST NEGRO BANK IN THE WORLD.

Not only has the Delta Penny Savings Bank of Indianola, Miss., the honor of leading every other Negro bank of the State of Mississippi in resources and general volume of business, but it is considered by financial experts as the "Second Largest Negro Bank in the World." This bank has been in operation for over six years, and its record stands nearly unapproachable in the banking institutions of the race. The high-class business ability and the known integrity of the leaders of this bank have won the confidence of the general public, as have the leaders of few other banks, and this is in part the explanation for this bank's marvelous success. Mr. Cox, the worthy Cashier of this bank, may not be the wealthiest man of the race in the State of Mississippi, but the word of no other man in the State has greater weight with the business interests of the State. He is recognized by all classes as a man of perfect business integrity and the soul of business honor.

"THE BEST BUSINESS MAN IN THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI."

It is the proud boast of the many friends of the subject to proclaim him as "the best business man in the State of Mississippi."

This is a great compliment to bestow upon any man, for the State of Mississippi stands at the very head of the States of the Union in banking circles, having in its borders about a dozen banks presided over by some of the most aggressive and progressive business men in the ranks of the race. The greatest asset of any bank, after all, is the confidence of the people in its leadership. If this be true, the bank of the race in Indianola, Miss., is worthy of its distinction and vast patronage. The record of the cashier in business circles is as clean as a hound's tooth, yes, it is as clean as two hounds' teeth put together. All over the State of Mississippi his word has the same potency in business circles as a gold government bond. He has perfect business judgment, and knows exactly what to do or not to do at the psychological moment. He is also a trained business diplomat, and this fact is evidenced by the thorough manner in which he is identified with all classes of worthy people. On the directorate of the Delta Penny Savings Bank are many farmers, all of whom are men of substantial means. These farmers are all honest and industrious men, and have gone into the banking business with no evil intentions at the expense of their fellowmen. Their official connection and interest in the bank are due mainly to their confidence in the prospects of the race and in the business integrity of the bank's cashier, and the financial interests of the race have received the right kind of impetus by the direct and active participation of these honest, practical and level-headed farmers. The average bank of the race is top-heavy with professional men, but the Delta Penny Savings Bank of Indianola, Miss., has a directorate that is connected with the soil of the earth, the source of all wealth, and the bank's cashier, Mr. W. W. Cox, is to be congratulated for his strategic, sagacious and far-sighted policy. Notwithstanding the fact that the bank has been in successful operation for several years, there has never been the least dissension among the bank's directors.

CASHIER'S LIFE IS INSURED FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE BANK.

That there is an abundance of gray matter used in the management of the Delta Penny Savings Bank is evident by the unusual manner in which they have safeguarded the bank's interest by insuring the life of its cashier for the benefit of the bank. It has long since been realized that the wonderful prosperity of the Delta Penny Savings Bank is largely due to the financial prestige and known integrity of its cashier, and it has ever been the apprehension of the far-sighted officials of the bank that the bank's interests would suffer materially if any great calamity in the shape of disease should befall its cashier. Appreciating the fact that life at

best is an uncertain proposition, the officials of the bank have insured the life of its cashier for twenty thousand dollars, the same to be paid to the bank in case of death. This is one of the most practical and one of the most far-sighted business acts that has ever been brought to the attention of the writer, and demonstrates the fact that the sagacity of the leaders of this bank merits the bank the great honor that the bank now enjoys, the honor of being the "second largest Negro bank in the world. Not only is the life of the cashier insured for the benefit of the bank, but all of the bank's officials are heavily bonded for the protection of the bank.

A BENEFACTOR TO THE COLORED PEOPLE OF INDIANOLA.

As it has already been stated, Mr. Cox bought his first 160 acres of land in the year of 1887 with his first humble savings of \$500 from the profession of teaching. From this beginning he has purchased many thousands of acres of land, but he has also sold thousands of acres in the same time. He has for years enjoyed the distinction of being one of the largest land speculators of the race in the State of Mississippi. Having purchased so many thousands of acres of land, it has been his privilege and pleasure to sell homes to hundreds of his race and on terms that would not have been possible if they had been dealing with people that had no personal interest in them. The owners of hundreds of homes will ever hold the name of the subject in grateful remembrance, because it was through his kindness and means that they were able to purchase their homes. In this particular Mr. Cox may be considered a benefactor to the race, for he has wrought in such a worthy manner that many of the members of the race are the proud owners of homes through his kindness and generous efforts.

HIS POLITICAL PROMINENCE.

The subject of this sketch is by preference a business man rather than a politician, but he has been forced by circumstances to play a leading part in the domain of political life. He is easily the most influential man with the political powers that be in his section of the State, and he has ever proved himself to be a wise and far-sighted politician. He is chairman of the Republican Executive Committee of Sunflower County, and has served in that capacity for five years. He has a real standing in the political life of his party, for there is something substantial behind him.

THE STRONGEST BUSINESS PROMOTER IN MISSISSIPPI.

Mr. Cox is directly interested in more business enterprises than possibly any other man in the State of Mississippi. He seems to

have stock in nearly everything of value in the State, and to be the premier promoter of the business enterprises of the race. He has the unique distinction of owning stock in every Negro bank in the South except one. He is, figuratively speaking, loaded down to the bars with responsibility. His financial integrity is so generally known and esteemed that he is usually elected treasurer of nearly every enterprise with which he is connected. He is Secretary-Treasurer of the Mississippi Beneficial Life Insurance Company, a company that is incorporated under the laws of Mississippi and capitalized at \$100,000, the greater part of which has already been paid in. This insurance company will be operating in all the States of the Union in less than a year, and is destined to be the first great old line life insurance company of the race in the world. It has already been writing all kinds of insurance in the State of Mississippi for about three years, and the success of the company has demonstrated beyond peradventure of doubt the ability of the members of the Negro race to understand and master the intricacies of the life insurance business. He is Secretary-Treasurer of the Mississippi Loan, Improvement and Industrial Company of Indianola, Miss. This company is capitalized at \$20,000, and does a general building and loan business. The company's president is Dr. J. E. Walker, one of the most prominent physicians and capitalists of Indianola, and with these two financial geniuses at the helm the progress of the company will be guaranteed. Mr. Cox is also Secretary-Treasurer of the Woodmen of Union, a fraternal organization that was founded by Hon. L. J. Winston. This fraternity has a membership of 7,000 and uses the Delta Penny Savings Bank as its depository. The writer could go on ad infinitum narrating the various organizations of which Mr. Cox is financial officer, but he will end the suspense by making his official duties unanimous.

HIS WORLDLY GOODS.

The subject of this sketch went to Indianola, Miss., when it was far less pretentious as a town than it is now. He went there when it was a backwoods, railroadless village, for the purpose of growing up with the country, and how well he has succeeded in his original intention is a matter of common knowledge to nearly every intelligent colored man in the State of Mississippi. He has not only grown up with the country, but he has even grown ahead of the country in worldly accumulations. He is easily one of the wealthiest colored men in the State of Mississippi. From time to time he has been one of the largest land owners in the delta country. In spite of the fact that he constantly buys and sells land, yet he always keeps in his ownership from 1,000 to 2,000 acres of fertile



RESIDENCE AND PARLOR OF MR. AND MRS. W. W. COX

land. The value of his farming land will make quite a sum of money. He has about thirty substantial tenement houses in Indianola. His residence is a commodious, substantial building, with twenty acres surrounding or in close proximity to it. While the subject has much in the line of material resources, he is generally thought to have more available cash money than any other man of the race in his State. It is universally supposed that Mr. Cox is one of the wealthiest men in the State of Mississippi, but however great his worldly resources may be, they are but a mere bagatelle in comparison with his moral wealth. He is a millionaire in character even if he were a pauper in rags.

HIS DEVOTED WIFE.

Perhaps the fondest recollections in the youthful days of the subject were at the time when he, at the age of thirteen years, was serving as mail clerk in the postoffice at Lexington, Miss., for it was while serving in that capacity that he first became acquainted with the dear one who was subsequently to be his devoted wife. On the 31st of October, 1889, Mr. Cox was united in marriage to Miss Minnie M. Geddings, of Lexington, Miss. She was educated at Fisk University, Nashville, Tenn., and she is a woman of splendid education and culture. It was her privilege to engage in the profession of teaching for several years, and she not only taught in the common schools of the county, but she also assisted her husband when he was principal of the Indianola Colored Public School.

SHE WAS POSTMISTRESS AT INDIANOLA.

On the 28th of January, 1891, Mrs. Minnie Cox was honored by President Benjamin Harrison with the appointment as Postmistress of the Indianola postoffice. She was reappointed by President William McKinley to the head of the same postoffice January 25, 1900. She served in all for nine or ten years as postmistress of Indianola, and the records of the office demonstrate the fact that she was one of the most efficient and one of the most popular officials that ever served in a similar capacity.

MRS. MINNIE COX AN IDEAL WOMAN.

The wife of Mr. Cox is one of the most tactful and one of the most diplomatic women of which the race can boast, and she is the one woman in this wide world that has complete mastery of her tongue. She has ever aspired to do her best in every capacity, and her efforts have always been rewarded with success. When she was a student at college she studied with a serious purpose in view,

and thus it has ever been, whether teaching school, serving as post-mistress of Indianola, or looking after the domestic affairs of her household. She is an ideal woman from every point of view, and she is the greatest inspiration that her husband ever had in his career. She is affable, unaffected and entirely devoid of anything that even smacks of notoriety. She is a grand woman, and no other mortal better knows this fact than her proud and devoted husband.

MISS ETHEL GRANT COX.

The estimable and talented daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Cox, Miss Ethel Grant Cox, is a graduate of the Almeda Garder Industrial School at Morehead, Miss., class of 1905. In the autumn of 1905 she was a student of Knoxville College, where she remained for one year. In the year of 1906 she matriculated at Fisk University, from which institution of learning she graduated in 1911 with the distinction of being one of the class orators. She is an intellectual young woman, and ought to contribute great happiness to her devoted parents, who have made every necessary sacrifice for her happiness.

CONCLUSION.

Mr. W. W. Cox is, personally, the most popular man of color in the State of Mississippi. He has never been identified with any organization that has for its object dissension and strife in the ranks of the race. He is a conservative man, and he does not mean to do a single soul the least harm. He is one of the hardest workers in the State and flourishes thereon like a green bay tree. There was a time in his life when he was glad to wear even the humble brogan on an occasion of state, but that time has long since passed. He saved his money just as soon as he had an opportunity to make it, speculated legitimately in real estate, and thus laid the foundation of one of the largest individual fortunes in the State. He is the soul of business integrity, and is popularly known as the premier business man in his State. He is truly the architect of his own fortune, and no other man is more entitled to the fruits of his honest labors. It would be a lasting compliment to any man to command the respect, confidence and esteem of the whole people to the extent that he does, and he merits every bit of his distinction. The race needs men of his character at the head of the business institutions of the race to lead it on to success and prosperity.



DR. E. T. BELSAW

E. T. Belsaw, D.D.S., Mobile, Ala.



IT HAS long been a theme for popular discussion which one of these desirable acquisitions to the fortune of man will conduce most to his happiness, viz., good looks, good luck, fine intellect or great wealth. Some people worship at one of these shrines, and some are devotees at the other, but insofar as they concern the popular, progressive and accomplished dental surgeon whose name graces the head of this sketch and forms an entity to conjure with throughout the confines of his adopted State, the whole discussion is superfluous, inasmuch as he has in his personal equipment all of these four most desirable blessings. As to the doctor's luck, it is the opinion of his many friends that he could find the bag of gold that is popularly supposed to lie concealed beneath the curved extremity of the rainbow if he should make any strenuous effort to do so. As to the doctor's personal pulchritude, or looks, the gods must have greatly rejoiced when they beheld the glory of their handiwork. As to the character of his intellect, the great success that he has achieved in his profession is ample proof. As to his wealth, that is a matter of public record and needs no details.

A NATIVE OF GEORGIA.

Contrary to what his prepossessing looks would indicate, the doctor is not a native of the State of Alabama, but he first held out his chubby hands to touch the big round moon in the historic town of Madison, Georgia, in the year of imphy umphy. His parents were rich in spiritual blessings, but poor in worldly treasures, for his sainted father was a devout minister of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, and labored not so much for worldly gain as for heavenly glory.

HIS LITERARY TRAINING.

Owing to the fact that the doctor's father was an itinerant Methodist minister, the son's education was received in many different places. He attended the public schools in Dalton, Cartersville, and Atlanta, Ga. He also attended Dickerson Institute, Pittsburg, Pa. He took advantage of private instruction under Prof. G. E. Master-son of Morris Brown College, Atlanta, Ga. His persistence as a student was rewarded with a splendid education for life and its responsibilities, and the doctor has no regret for the many hours he spent in hard and determined study.

BEACON LIGHTS OF THE RACE

A SCHOOLMASTER IN GEORGIA.

The majority of successful men have at some time in life kept school, and the worthy subject is no exception to this rule, for he taught school in Coweta County, Ga., in 1897 and 1898. While his intellectual equipment made him a thoroughly capable and proficient teacher, yet it is more than probable that his generous physical proportions and great strength commanded more than passing notice and obedience from his pupils, and contributed much to the wholesome respect which they had for the rules and regulations of the school.

THE POTATO KING OF HIS COUNTY.

When a youth the doctor lived in many sections of the country, as necessarily would have been the experience of the son of an itinerant preacher, and many of the leaves in the doctor's book of experience are filled with incidents as amusing as they are strange. At the age of eighteen, having been induced by some strange eccentricity of his mind, he resolved to live the dignified life of a successful farmer. He entertained original ideas of farming, and he decided to depart from the traditional and antiquated methods of farming and blaze out into unbeaten agricultural paths. He would eschew the fleecy boll, which from time immemorial had been the refuge of the farming classes in the South. He looked with disdainful eyes on King Cotton, who for untold generations had ruled with an iron hand the agricultural masses of the South. No, indeed; the future dental surgeon would raise the succulent potato and literally coin money from the giant yield of his delicious tubers. So at great expense and personal labor he planted many acres of the fruit from whose yield he was going to reap a golden harvest. Proudly and carefully did he cultivate his precious crop, and he watched over it as tenderly as ever a devoted mother watched over her tiny babe. Finally the time drew near when he would reap the fruits of his toil. The foliage shooting skyward from the earth gave every indication of a prodigious yield of potatoes, and the cup of his happiness was filled to overflowing. When the psychological moment arrived to reap he complacently turned his hired forces into the potato field and they with potato forks and divers implements began to penetrate Mother Earth for the succulent spoils that lay concealed in her bosom. Strong, sinewy arms plunged prongs of steel deep into the bosom of the earth, but not a single potato was found where all of his youthful hopes lay blasted. It was a grievous disappointment to the enthusiastic, agricultural reformer that nature should have turned her back on him and held him up to ridicule before the eyes of men. It proved for him a valuable lesson, how-

ever, for the experience showed that it is rather risky for a young and inexperienced boy to play the role of reformer and defy the custom of untold years.

A BUSINESS MAN IN BIRMINGHAM.

For four years he was engaged in the real estate business in the city of Birmingham, Ala., and in that business he achieved gratifying success. The doctor's forte, outside of his profession, is in the realm of speculation, and his frank manner and suavity of speech are most convincing when there is any noise like coin of the realm.

OFF TO MEHARRY MEDICAL COLLEGE.

The fact that the doctor is one of the leading dental surgeons of the South is the result of a combination of circumstances rather than of any original intention on his part. The intellectual strength of the subject had always been evident to his friends and most of them looked upon him as sleeping on his opportunities while he was engaged in mercantile and real estate business. They considered him to have a mental power that would enable him to make his mark in one of the so-called learned professions. While he was engaged in business life his friends looked upon him as a "rose shedding its sweetness on the desert air." So his professional friend, Dr. A. M. Brown of Birmingham, his dear wife and others encouraged him to go off to Meharry Medical College for the purpose of studying dentistry, which he did in the year of 1904.

HONORS AT MEHARRY.

While a student at Meharry Medical College, the subject made a record for scholarship of which any one would well be proud. During his final year in college he was honored with the position of Assistant Demonstrator of Operative Dentistry. Of the four prizes which were offered by the college authorities to his class the future dental surgeon won two. He won the prize for metallurgy and the general proficiency prize for all-round dental work.

HANGS OUT HIS SHINGLE IN MOBILE.

The entrance of the doctor into the ranks of the professional practitioners in the State of Alabama was very auspicious. He passed the board of examiners on the 16th of May, 1908, and the examining board complimented him with the declaration that he had passed the best theoretical and practical examination that had ever been passed either by white or colored applicants in the history

of the board. After his examination he decided to locate in the city of Mobile, Ala., and the success of his professional efforts has already been thoroughly demonstrated.

A COSTLY DENTAL PARLOR.

The office of Dr. E. T. Belsaw is one of the most completely fitted up dental parlors in the South. The conventional appliances and apparatuses of the average dental surgeon have been discarded by the subject, and the most modern and most up-to-date dental paraphernalia has been installed, without regard to cost. Instead of the ancient and time-honored laughing gas apparatus, he has a monnoform outfit for painless dentistry. His table and his laboratory outfit is as complete as money can buy, and his whole professional equipment is a compliment both to his professional ambition and his success as a practitioner. A conservative estimate of the cost of fitting up the doctor's commodious and elegant dental parlors is in excess of \$2,000.

THE LARGEST DENTAL PRACTICE IN THE SOUTH.

The bright future of the subject when a student in college, winning the honors and prizes of his class, has been more than realized in the brilliant and successful practicing dental surgeon of today. He has a practice in the city of Mobile that cannot be surpassed by any other dental surgeon in the Southland. He has won his patronage on his merits, and vain would be the efforts of any other dentist to try to win from him the patronage of any of his patients.

The practice of the doctor is so extensive that the writer had to make an appointment for a conference with the doctor at night. His diary of engagements is kept full, and he is an extremely busy man during the entire period of his office hours. His patrons are loyal to him because they have implicit confidence both in the man and in his professional skill. He has the reputation of being one of the most capable and one of the most resourceful dentists that ever tried to reduce to submission a wild and refractory molar.

A POLITICAL WORKER.

The subject does not share in the belief that politics is a dangerous thing for the Negro race, but, on the contrary, he believes that every man should hold in proper respect the exercise of the political franchise. He had the honor of being one of the first colored men in the State of Alabama to register under the new State constitution, and he is one of the few Republicans in the State to participate actively in the councils of the party.

VARIOUS HONORS.

The ability of the doctor, both as a professional man and a citizen has been the cause of many honors being conferred upon him by his fellow citizens. He is President of the Mobile Medical, Dental and Pharmaceutical Association. He is President of the Mobile Emancipation Association and a director of the Young Men's Christian Association.

HIS ACCOMPLISHED WIFE.

In the year of 1901 the doctor was united in the holy bonds of matrimony to Mrs. M. V. Lovelle, a refined, cultured and wealthy widow of Chattanooga, Tenn. She was educated at Oberlin College, and is a gifted woman of the highest intellectual attainments. She was for some time one of the leading educators of the South, and in that capacity she filled some of the leading positions in the institutions of learning in the Southland. At one time she was the honored principal of the preparatory department of Straight University, New Orleans, La. She was also at the head of Meridian Academy, Meridian, Miss., for some time. She is a charming woman, and is possessed of all the attributes that endow her for social leadership. She is vivacious, cultured and socially inclined, and just such a companion as will never permit time to drag heavily on her hand. She is a woman that is versed not only in books, but in the domain of finance. She combines business with brains, and she is in every respect a modern and progressive business woman and devoted wife.

ADDENDA.

Dr. Belsaw is the quintessence of affability, and is as royal in character as he is loyal in his friendships. He is one of the best men in the ranks of the race in Mobile, and merits the benediction of the gods and the best wishes of mankind.





H. WAYMAN WILKERSON

H. Wayman Wilkerson, Memphis, Tenn.

FUNERAL DIRECTOR AND EMBALMER.



IN THE ancient geographies that were studied by the writer the great State of Illinois was known by the sobriquet of "The Sucker State," and consequently many people with only a limited knowledge of the English language would have jumped to the wrong conclusion respecting the character of the people that are indigenous to that populous and progressive State. Indeed, the great State of Illinois is not the home of weaklings, for its rigorous climate, fertile soil, natural resources and intelligent population render the propagation of weaklings an impossibility.

HIS NATIVITY.

The hustling, enterprising and aggressive business man whose life story is portrayed in this sketch, is a native of the State of Illinois, and was born near the city of Alton, April 16, 1873. He was loyal to the interests of his native State, and spent therein all the days of his young manhood until the year of 1903, when he came South to seek fame and fortune.

HIS LITERARY TRAINING.

The subject was educated in the State of Illinois, and he had the honor of being one of the first colored pupils to be admitted to the Upper Alton High School after the historic clash between the two races on the vital question of the co-education of the white and black races. After studying in the high school of his native city, he attended a business college in Decatur, to which city he had moved from Alton. Early in his career he had inclined to a business career, and it was the earnest desire to qualify for business success that induced him to take a commercial course.

AN ACTIVE POLITICIAN IN ILLINOIS.

While residing in the city of Decatur, Ill., the subject became prominently identified with local politics, and so well did he succeed in a political way that he was appointed to a position as deputy in the county sheriff's office, a position which he filled with credit for four years at a salary of \$75 per month.

COL. WILKERSON'S DRAMATIC AND CONCERT COMPANY.

At the expiration of his term of office as deputy sheriff, his versatile talents and love for adventure caused him to organize and put on the road "Col. Wilkerson's Dramatic and Concert Company." This interesting and entertaining aggregation of artists traveled extensively through the Middle West and the South, and was far more successful than the usual run of such organizations. It was one of the first tests of his ability as a business man, and gave him an experience that proved invaluable to him in subsequent business ventures.

THE CALL OF THE SOUTH.

The subject visited the South for the first time while he was managing his itinerant amusement aggregation, and the extraordinary sight of the material progress of the colored people amazed him. His mental horizon was enlarged many fold, and he had the faculty to see the wonderful possibilities that the Southland presents to every colored man with energy, push and brains. As soon as the advantages of the South were fully realized he resolved to locate in the South. It is not a characteristic of the subject to procrastinate when he is favorably impressed with a business proposition, for his action is ever in obedience to his mind. In the year of 1903 he wound up his business affairs in the North and turned his face toward the South, the land of his hopes and his dreams. He decided to locate in the city of Memphis, and for weal or woe work out his own destiny. The wisdom of his action may be epitomized in the language of the immortal Julius Caesar, "He came, he saw, he conquered!"

A BUSINESS MAN IN DIXIE.

In the year of 1903 the subject united with his brother, Rev. J. Jay Scott, in the purchase of the A. N. Johnson Funeral Directory, which had been operating in the city of Memphis for some time. The new company was at first a mere co-partnership enterprise, but the great expansion of the company's business made it necessary to incorporate it in the year of 1908 with a capital of \$25,000. The subject is the President of this undertaking establishment, and his active mind and business sagacity have done wonders for the success of his company.

A HIGH OFFICIAL IN FRATERNITY CIRCLES.

The subject is Grand Treasurer of the Knights and Daughters of Tabor, and one of the strong pillars of that growing, progressive

and prosperous fraternity. He is also manager of the Odd Fellows' Home Association Farm, a large and fertile tract of land that is owned by that fraternity and devoted to benevolent purposes. He is prominently connected with most of the fraternal organizations in the city of Memphis, and his membership is highly esteemed by the powers that be in the various orders.

VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE FRATERNAL SAVINGS BANK.

That the subject stands well in financial circles is evident from the fact that he is Vice-President of the Fraternal Savings Bank & Trust Company of Memphis, Tenn. He is a man of splendid financial rating, and his word along business lines is a guarantee of the fulfillment of every promise.

HIS ESTIMABLE WIFE.

In the halcyon month of September, 1906, when all nature was in a state of suspense in preparation for its transition from the golden days of autumn to the bleak and chilling days of winter, the subject led to the altar as a companion for life Miss Hattie B. Foote, of Memphis, Tenn. She is a talented young woman of the best family connections, and for several years was one of the teachers in the Memphis City Schools. Her kind assistance and encouragement have been powerful incentives leading to his success. One child has been born to this devoted couple, Miss Hattie Marguerite Wilkerson, who will inherit the great love and devotion of her parents.

THEIR BEAUTIFUL HOME.

The residence of Mr. and Mrs. Wilkerson is one of the most attractive in the city of Memphis. From the days of his boyhood it had been his ambition to own a beautiful home, and he early conceived in his mind the character of the home to which he would carry the companion of his heart. His home is constructed on the most approved Japanese lines. It is picturesque, stylish, capacious, well appointed, and suitable for the aspirations of any reasonable man. It is splendidly located, and its value will not depreciate because of improper environment.

A TRIBUTE TO HIS DEAR MOTHER.

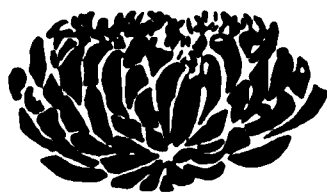
In the domain of the English language no other word has a sweeter or holier significance than the word "home." The spirit of adventure and recklessness may make a man brave the dangers and perils of unknown lands; it may cause him to bear with equa-



RESIDENCE OF H. WAYMAN WILKERSON

nimity the chilling blasts of the polar regions or the fierce and burning rays of the tropics, but in either place his mind will ever revert to the place which in his hallowed recollections is ever known as "home, sweet home." But it may be asked, What is home without a mother? In the days of youth there can be but one answer: "Home is nothing without mother's inspiration, care and love." It is the pleasure of the subject to give due credit to his devoted mother for having been the source of his every aspiration. It is largely to her sacrifices and encouragement that he owes every success in life, and he is appreciative and manly enough to desire the whole world to know it. Mrs. Sarah J. Wilkerson, his loving mother, was a free born native of the State of Tennessee, and was born near the city of Murfreesborough. Being of free birth and ambitious for her own future, she did not think that it was compatible with her interests to continue to live in the South, so in the latter part of the decade of the 50's she turned her footsteps toward the North Star and settled down in the State of Illinois, where she married her first husband and where were born all of her children. Ambitious for the welfare of her children, she resolved to make every effort and sacrifice to provide for them the blessings of a good education; and she went about it in such a determined and resourceful way that in some inexplicable manner her efforts and

prayers were crowned with success. In countless numbers of ways she worked, slaved and denied herself for the education of her children, and communicated to them her spirit of determination to succeed. If necessity is the mother of invention, Mrs. Sarah J. Wilkerson had a thousand necessities to develop her genius, for her responsibilities were increased a hundred fold by the absence of her husband, who was a Methodist minister. She worked hard and educated her children for the lives of usefulness which they all now live, and her reward is that which comes from the consciousness of duty well done. The dear mother is now an octogenarian, and is fast approaching the setting sun of her life, but she has long since earned her reward in the love, happiness and tender care of her devoted sons, all of whom bear faithful testimony to the great love that she has ever showered upon them. The dear mother wrought better than she ever dreamed when she put her hands to the plow of duty and never looked back until duty had been well done. She has earned her repose and will never suffer for a single want as long as her loving sons have strength of hands or intellect to earn an honest dollar. The subject is the youngest son and has ever shared the constant companionship of his dear mother, and it is the supreme happiness of his life to give this feeble testimony to the dearest friend of his youth and the blessing of his ripe manhood. If the subject had no other claim upon the best wishes of his fellowmen than the respect and love that he has for his mother, that fact itself would entitle him to undying praise and success, for the man that respects, loves and honors his mother will succeed just as sure as the stars continue to shine and the rains from heaven descend.





REV. E. C. MORRIS

Rev. E. C. Morris, D.D., Helena, Ark.

PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL BAPTIST CONVENTION.



VERY grand and enduring monument to the cause of human progress has been the result of ceaseless activity, sweat and even blood of some man or set of men, who conscious of the worthiness of their cause and the rectitude of their action have been willing to sacrifice their all on the altar of their devotion. The freedom of the Negro race in America today is an imperishable monument to the undying patriotism and zeal of the heroic sons of freedom who were willing to suffer martyrdom, if necessary, for the triumph of the cause which they believed to be right. Likewise the blessings of civil, political and religious freedom which the Negro race now enjoys is the sweat-wrought and blood-bought privilege of sainted thousands, many of whom have long since crossed the threshold of eternity to their reward.

One of the greatest sources of beneficence to any people is the worthiness of its Christian leaders, for after all the real progress and uplift of every people on this green footstool must be through the instrumentality of the Christian religion. Intelligence is necessary and wealth is desirable, but the sheet anchor of hope for the Negro race is an intelligent, consecrated, religious life. Many solutions of the Negro problem are daily being advanced by sociological theorists and mathematical dreamers, but this great problem will never be successfully wrought except by the dissemination and practice of the principles of true Christianity. If this statement be true, those consecrated men who are honored with the religious leadership of the race necessarily are the real leaders of the race, and upon their fidelity and Christian zeal depends the real progress of the race.

Perhaps the greatest leader of the Negro race, by virtue of the authority that is vested in him by the great denomination of which he is the official head, is Dr. E. C. Morris, of Helena, Ark., the honored President of the National Baptist Convention. In this exalted official there is not only the acme of power and honor, but the personification of high Christian character.

A NATIVE OF GEORGIA.

The distinguished divine and eminent head of the Baptist denomination of the world is a native of the State of Georgia, the Empire State of the South, and was born near Spring Place, May 7, 1855.

He was born a slave on a farm, but he loses no sleep in lamentation over the accident of his birth, for the blessings of freedom and opportunity which he now enjoys have more than compensated him for his servile experience.

HIS PARENTS.

His father, Mr. James Morris, came from North Carolina to Georgia in the year of 1850. He was a man of intelligence and was fairly well educated for his day and time. The father, who worked at his trade at Spring Place, was permitted to come out to the plantation twice a week, Wednesday and Saturday nights, and on each of these nights he would teach his children, so that when freedom came all of the family could read and write except the youngest child. In this particular the children of his family were very fortunate, for they enjoyed the privilege of being instructed at a time when it was a violation of the laws of the land for a slave to be taught in books. The subject of this sketch was reared in an atmosphere of intelligence, and thus had an opportunity to imbibe much that was educational.

HIS LIVING BROTHER AND SISTER.

The subject was the eighth link in the family chain of ten children. All but three of them have already been gathered to their reward. His brother, Rev. Wm. H. Morris, is a minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and resides in Morrillton, Ark. His sister, Mrs. Sarah J. Caver, of Little Rock, Ark., is the estimable mother-in-law of Rev. J. A. Booker, the worthy and able President of Arkansas Baptist College, which is one of the leading institutions of learning in the South.

HIS EDUCATION.

The subject first attended school in Dalton, Ga., in 1864-5. He spent also a part of this same period in the schools of Chattanooga, Tenn. In the year of 1866 he attended the public school of Stevenson, Ala., and remained therein until he had completed the course. Ever ambitious to prepare himself for serious life, he wended his way to Nashville, Tenn., where he attended the old Nashville Institute, now Roger Williams University, in 1874-5.

A SCHOOL TEACHER FOR ONE SESSION.

Perhaps the briefest official experience in his long and useful life was his tenure of office in a school room in North Alabama, where

he taught just one session. The school in question before his advent as teacher had been notorious for its lax discipline and incorrigible pupils, and in consequence of that fact the embryo school master was offered a strong inducement in wages if he would heed the Macedonian cry for help and go down to remedy the situation. He accepted the proposition and went down and took formal charge of the school, which had been the nightmare of many a terrified teacher and which had more than probably sent many in a state of distraction to the madhouse. Without needless elaboration of details, it may be here stated that the new teacher made good and mastered the situation from the very beginning. He immediately restored order out of chaos and caused the teacher's authority to be more positively recognized than it had ever been in the history of the school. But the unique and resourceful manner in which he triumphed over the discordant and hostile elements and reduced those wild and warlike combatants to peaceable and law-abiding pupils is one of the most excruciatingly amusing incidents of the subject's life, and must be related by him in his own inimitable style in order to be appreciated and enjoyed fully.

A SHOEMAKER FROM 1872 TO 1886.

Just as were the efficient and devoted servants of the Divine Master in the days of the apostles, the reverend subject of this sketch was master of a useful trade. Having served for some time as an apprentice at the trade, in course of time he became a skilled artisan in the shoemakers' trade, and plied his awl and needle in pursuit of the trade from 1872 until 1886, when the duties that were incident to his ministerial calling became so laborious that he was compelled to abandon the trade and devote his whole time to the gospel ministry. Though he has not pursued his old trade for a quarter of a century, yet he can look with pardonable pride in retrospect on the days when he was a toiling shoemaker and rejoice because of the fact that so early in life he was blessed with an honorable and remunerative trade by which to maintain himself and the loved ones who were dependent upon him.

SETTLED IN ARKANSAS IN 1877.

In the year of 1877 the subject of this sketch was stricken with a malignant type of "Kansas Exodus Fever," which so seriously afflicted the members of the race throughout the Southland that it caused teeming thousands of them to quit their homes in the older States of the East to seek freedom, equality, justice and opportunity on the hallowed soil of Kansas, erstwhile "Bleeding Kansas."

The subject, while en route to this modern Promised Land, stopped over in Helena, Ark., March 7, 1877, and found there without further Western adventure a land which more than rivalled in natural resources and possibilities the State of Kansas, to whose borders he was then emigrating. His locating in Helena, Ark., in this unexpected manner was undoubtedly providential, for it put him in direct contact with the teeming thousands of his benighted people whose interest he might serve and to whom he could bring the blessings of spiritual light, comfort and joy.

HIS CAREER IN THE GOSPEL MINISTRY.

In the month of September, 1874, the subject was converted in Stevenson, Ala., and forthwith united with the Morning Star Baptist Church of that place. In the same year he was licensed to preach the gospel. Having rapidly passed through the various stages of a ministerial exhorter, he was duly ordained in the month of July, 1879, in Helena, Ark., to which town he had emigrated and where he had the honor of holding his first pastorate.

CENTENNIAL BAPTIST CHURCH.

Dr. Morris enjoys a unique honor in the gospel ministry, for he has ministered to his present congregation for the whole period of his ministerial life, and his present charge is the only regular pastorate he has ever had since his ordination as a minister. The original membership of Centennial Baptist Church at the time when he assumed the pastorate was twenty-two, and the congregation did not own any realty. Now the membership of the church is in excess of five hundred, and they own one of the most commodious, most substantial and most elegant church edifices in the whole country. The church is conservatively valued at \$40,000. It has a flourishing Sunday School of 300 pupils and fifteen teachers.

HONORS IN THE MINISTRY.

The doctor assumed the duties of pastor of his church with a determination and zeal to do all in his power to further the cause of the Master's kingdom. In the year of 1879 he organized the Phillips, Lee and Monroe County District Association, and was its honored Secretary for two years. In the year of 1880 he was elected Secretary of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, and served in that capacity for two years. In the year of 1882 he was elected President of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention and has served in that exalted office for nearly thirty years. There are at present in the State of Arkansas over nine hundred churches of

the Baptist denomination, with six hundred ministers actively engaged in the work of evangelization. Of course, this number does not include the mighty host of preachers that have no certain employment. It is an unprecedented honor to have presided over the deliberations of the Baptist denomination of the State of Arkansas for thirty years without seriously disrupting the denomination or otherwise retarding its progress. On the contrary, whatever of prestige and might has been achieved by the great denomination of which he is the official head in the State of Arkansas, has been due to his intelligent, progressive and aggressive leadership.

FOUNDED THE BAPTIST VANGUARD.

In the year of 1882 the subject founded the Baptist Vanguard, the official organ of the Baptist denomination of the State of Arkansas, and one of the most consistent and influential religious publications in the South. He was not only the founder of this worthy organ of the denomination, but he was its editor for two years.

ONE OF THE FOUNDERS OF ARKANSAS BAPTIST COLLEGE.

Early in his career Dr. Morris realized the importance and value of education as one of the great means of elevating and Christianizing the race. Under no condition does he subscribe to the belief that a man must be illiterate and even ignorant in order to be a Christian. On the contrary, he sees no reason why an educated man should not be able to be even a more intelligent Christian than he would otherwise be if handicapped by ignorance alone. The doctor believes in absolute surrender to God and the regeneration of the heart, but he discards all of those wild and superstitious follies that are the concomitants of ignorance. Believing thus, in the year of 1884 he helped to found Arkansas Baptist College at Little Rock, Ark., the premier educational institution in the State of Arkansas. For twenty-five years he was chairman of the board of trustees of this institution, but he was compelled to resign this office because of the extraordinary amount of work which the responsibilities of his various official positions entailed upon him. He is still a member of the college board of trustees.

CHAIRMAN OF THE STATE MISSION BOARD.

Since the year of 1900 the subject has served as chairman of the Arkansas State Mission Board. This board works under the co-operative system between the National Baptist Convention and the Southern White Baptist Convention.

PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL BAPTIST CONVENTION.

In the year of 1891, Dr. Morris was elected to the position of Vice-President of the National Baptist Convention, and served in that capacity for three years, or until the year of 1894, in which ever memorable year he was elevated to the exalted position of President of the National Baptist Convention, which is the most commanding and the most honored religious office that is held by any Negro in the world. He has made a world-wide reputation as a resourceful and able presiding officer and parliamentarian. For nearly a score of years he has presided over the deliberations of this greatest official body of Christian workers in the known world, and his matchless leadership has caused the convention to make the most marvelous growth in its history. The distinguished President's brain has been fertile with suggestions that have for their object the advancement of the cause of Christianity and the general progress of the world. In connection with his official duties it may be timely to mention some of the wise suggestions that have emanated from him:

(1) In the year of 1893 he recommended the establishment of the National Baptist Publishing Board, whose plant is located in the city of Nashville, Tenn., and is worth \$350,000. This is the largest Negro printing concern in the world, and is a most emphatic and most convincing proof of the progressive ideas of the denomination.

(2) He recommended the organization of the Baptist Young People's Association at Nashville, Tenn., in the year of 1900.

(3) In the year of 1900, he also recommended the organization of the National Baptist Woman's Auxiliary Board, with headquarters at Washington, D. C.

(4) In the year of 1902 he recommended the organization of the National Baptist Benefit Association. This association is a grand link in the chain of benevolence, for it provides for the hard-worked and underpaid ministers of the gospel a protection from the infirmities of sickness and age. Any member of this organization can, by the payment of \$1.00 per quarter, receive a benefit policy to the value of \$200. Thus the National Baptist Benefit Association is a business organization on parity with the most modern economic thought of the day.

(5) In the year of 1899 he organized the Baptist Home Mission Board, with headquarters at Little Rock, Ark.

HIGH RELIGIOUS HONORS.

In the year of 1903 the subject had the honor of helping to organize the General Convention of North America, which is com-

posed of all of the Baptists of North America, blacks as well as whites, and he is the only Negro member of the executive committee of this organization. In the year of 1905 he assisted in the organization of the Baptist World's Congress, and he has the honor of being the only Negro member of the American executive committee of this body. In connection with the actual work of both of these grand organizations, the doctor has naught but the highest praise to relate concerning the manner in which he is officially treated by his Christian brethren of the opposite race.

HIS HONORARY DEGREES.

In the year of 1892 State University, Louisville, Ky., in recognition of the ability of the subject and his general contribution to the advancement of the cause of religious purity, conferred upon him the degree of Doctor of Divinity. In the year of 1902 the Agricultural and Mechanical College at Normal, Ala., conferred upon him the degree of Doctor of Philosophy.

POLITICAL HONORS.

Preachers should be a power for good to the community not only in the pulpit, but in every worthy cause for the progress of the race. It has long been the custom in some quarters to inveigh heavily against members of the ministry taking any active part in politics. A practical view to take of the matter is this: A preacher is, first of all, a citizen, just as any other man. As a citizen it is his right and duty to conserve the interest of society by encouraging and insisting that all men should look after the political institutions of the State and regard the exercise of the political franchise as the highest privilege of manhood. The fact is, no man with red corpuscles in his blood will be content to permit others to play hide and seek with his political rights as long as he has a single breath to plead his own cause. Dr. Morris has never profoundly slept on his political rights, for he considers them too precious ever to be ruthlessly disregarded. He represented the First Arkansas Congressional District at the Republican National Convention three different times, viz., when it nominated Hon. James G. Blaine in the year of 1884, Mr. Benjamin Harrison in 1888, and Mr. Theodore Roosevelt in 1904. In the year of 1908 he was alternate delegate at large to the Republican National Convention, which nominated President Taft. He has been a delegate to every Republican State Convention in Arkansas for the past thirty years, and he is honored with election thereto it matters not whether or not he is in the State at the time. Thanks to the disinterested efforts of his kind and loyal friends, he is usually elected without opposition.

A NOTARY PUBLIC.

Dr. Morris has held a commission as notary public in the State of Arkansas for nearly a quarter of a century. As a rule his commission is duly made out and forwarded to him through proper official channels without any undue solicitation on his part.

IN THE ARENA OF BUSINESS LIFE.

In the year of 1902 the subject organized the Helena Negro Business League and served as President of that organization for three years. He is also a member of the Executive Committee of the Negro State Business League.

He is a director of the Mound Bayou Oil Mill & Manufacturing Company. He is a director of the Phillips County Land & Investment Company, a corporation that is capitalized at \$25,000, with a probable increase of capital to \$50,000. He is interested in the Silver Wave Mining Company of Colorado. He is the owner of a farm of seventy-five acres of land on the river in Phillips County. He has an interest in a half block of unimproved land in North Helena. He owns four pieces of improved property and a home that is conservatively valued at \$5,000.

HAS NOT HAD TIME TO MAKE MONEY.

The worthy doctor has been such a busy man striving to promote the advancement and uplift of his people that he has not had time to accumulate wealth, nor has he had any great desire to amass the treasures of the world. The fact is, his material interests would have seriously suffered if it had not been for the business energy, common sense and fidelity of his devoted wife, who has stood at the helm and guided the course of the family ship to its present haven on the ocean of life. The doctor, knowing his busy religious life and his lack both of time and inclination to make money, has wisely looked after the future of his family by investing heavily in life insurance. His life is heavily insured for the benefit of his loved ones, and he can perform his religious responsibilities without apprehension of what might befall his family if it should please Providence to deprive him either of health or life.

HIS DEVOTED AND FAITHFUL WIFE.

November 27, 1884, Dr. Morris was united in the holy bonds of matrimony to Miss Fannie E. Austin, of Fackler, Ala. They had known each other for many years, and he had made her his choice when she was in her youth. True to his intention and promise, he

returned to the old State and tied fast the knot which will never be severed either in this life or in the life to come. His wife attended school at Rust Institute, Huntsville, Ala., and taught school in Jackson County, Ala., for a few years. She is one of the best women in the wide world, and has been the prime cause of her husband's splendid success. She has reared a very interesting family of children and they are all an ornament to their parents in more respects than one. Mrs. Morris sheds additional luster on the name of her distinguished husband because of her unselfish disposition and known fidelity. The doctor considers himself a very fortunate man because the Lord has blessed him with the companionship, assistance, devotion and love of such a rare and faithful wife.

THEIR CHILDREN.

Mr. Elias A. Morris, A.B., is a graduate of Arkansas Baptist College, class of 1907. He is a clerk in the Census Department of the United States government, Washington, D. C., and is considered one of the most efficient clerks in the service. He taught school for two sessions in the high school at Trenton, Ark. Frederick Douglass Morris, A.B., is a graduate of Howard University, class of 1910. He is now a bookkeeper in the Bank of Mound Bayou and one of the confidential secretaries of Mr. Charles Banks. Miss Mattie E. Morris is a graduate of the Academic Department of Arkansas Baptist College. She is a teacher in the Helena Public School, and is in every respect a capable and worthy young woman. Miss Sadie Hope Morris is a student of Arkansas Baptist College, and Master John Spurgeon Morris is a pupil of the Helena Public School.

AS A MINISTER.

It is superfluous to state that Dr. Morris is an ideal minister of the gospel, for his record in this respect is so pronounced that this statement cannot be gainsaid. His sacred vestments have ever been kept clean and unspotted before the world. During his long pastorate at Centennial Baptist Church, extending over a period of more than thirty years, there has not been a minute's serious friction between pastor and congregation. This record is nearly unprecedented in the annals of church experience, for some jar will occasionally occur in the best regulated families. It is hardly probable that there is another minister of the race that is more highly appreciated, more honored and more sincerely loved than he. His congregation realizes the fact that it has at its head not only one of the most distinguished and one of the most honored ministers in the world, but one of the worthiest, and that for this reason, as well

as countless others, its shepherd is worthy of the greatest possible consideration. Knowing the highly responsible and overwhelming duties that devolve upon him as the head of the greatest Christian body in the world, the officials and members of his church make every provision for his comfort and happiness.

AS PRESIDENT.

In the year of 1894 the subject was elevated to the presidency of the National Baptist Convention, which represents the greatest constituency of any religious denomination of the Negro race in the wide world. Denominational statistics show that the Negro Baptists have a membership of considerably more than two million communicants. The subject of this sketch is the chief presiding officer of this mighty Christian army, and as such he is one of the most effective and most potential agencies for the accomplishment of good to mankind. As presiding officer he is in position to suggest and influence far-reaching and meritorious reforms along moral, religious and material lines, all of which are but successive links in the great scheme of beneficence for the advancement and uplift of the race. Few people indeed can fully realize what an exalted honor it is to be the official and undisputed head of the greatest religious body in the world. Dr. Morris is by virtue of his official position the uncrowned king of the Negro race, and he has used his great powers in the fear and admonition of the Lord.

It has been his good fortune to have enjoyed a reasonably peaceful administration during the whole of his incumbency, for he has ever striven to keep out of the councils of the denomination strife, jealousies and bickerings. The rank and file of the masses of the denomination seem to have confidence in the ability, character and spiritual life of the worthy doctor, and there is no other man at present that seems in any way likely to dim his popularity or diminish his influence with the Baptists of this country whom he has led so long and so wisely for nearly a score of years.

AS AN ORATOR.

It has been the privilege of very few men to grace as many occasions as the doctor has graced in the cause of the welfare and uplift of his race. There is no doubt that he has addressed a greater number of audiences in the course of his career in the gospel ministry than any other Negro orator in the world. As President of the denomination his labors are world-wide, and in the performance of his official duties he has twice crossed the Atlantic ocean. As a clear, forceful and logical speaker the doctor has few equals.

He is earnest and convincing, rather than demonstrative in his oratorical attempts. He has not the overwhelming eloquence of some, nor the classical scholasticism of others, but he is at all times a pleasing and satisfying speaker with a message to deliver to his hearers. If he has held the masses of the Baptist denomination as if in the hollow of his hand for lo! these many years, it has been due not so much to the power of his oratory as to the thoroughly Christian character and sincerity of the man. In this practical, every-day existence it takes something more than the mere gift of oratory to convince and lead the people, for it has been demonstrated in the cases of many worthy aspirants for the presidency of the United States of America that some of the most eloquent men of the nation have ignominiously failed to gain the confidence and support of the people for that high office. The doctor is not the most learned, nor the most eloquent, nor the most handsome, nor the most wealthy minister of his denomination, but he is one of the most kindly, most even-tempered, most pleasant, most unpretentious, most conservative and most sagacious men of the race in any country or in any age. The proof of this statement is shown in his ability to stand at the head of his denomination for nearly a generation and yet continue to retain his extraordinary influence, popularity and power. No man can turn back the veil of the future and tell what lies behind, but it will be no great surprise to the world to see the worthy leader of the Baptist denomination wield the sceptre of power until all that is mortal of him will be consigned to the inanimate elements whence they came.

AN ESTIMATE OF THE DOCTOR.

Dr. Morris is officially the most distinguished Negro in the world, yet he wears his exalted honors just as if he were the humblest and most insignificant man in the world. He is entirely devoid of affectation and from casual conversation with him there would be no intimation of the exalted position that he fills in the religious life of the race. He is just the kind of leader to show to the world that a man can be highly honored and yet not feel himself above the people who have honored him with dignity and power. He is the man to show to the world that "a man is a man for a' that," even if he does not hold a college diploma and belong to the most distinguished literati of the world. He is the people's choice for the exalted office that he holds and when his official career will have been ended he will return his official toga immaculate and unsullied to those whose prerogative it is to give and receive. He is a great man in every application of the term, and the people of this country have every confidence in his moral integrity and Christian character.



REV. J. A. LINDSAY

Rev. J. A. Lindsay, D.D., Memphis, Tenn.

PASTOR OF AVERY CHAPEL A. M. E. CHURCH.



VERY few men of rational minds will take issue with the assertion that the intelligent, worthy, divinely called minister of the gospel has a greater power for good to the world than possibly any other human being. Ministering to the moral, intellectual and spiritual welfare of his congregation, he has by virtue of his supposed integrity and sanctity the respect, esteem and confidence of his followers to a greater extent than any other man. This sketch is written as a tribute to an earnest, consecrated worker in the vineyard of the Master, and one that is not ashamed of the humble part that kind Providence has committed to his hands to play in the elevation of his race and the general uplift of the world.

HIS NATIVITY.

Rev. J. A. Lindsay, the subject of this sketch, was born in the vicinity of Union, South Carolina, September 10, 1865. His early life was a struggle for mastery on the farm, and the ruggedness of his character and his fierce determination to succeed in life are in a measure traceable to the discipline and strength that he gained on the farm.

HIS EDUCATION.

The scholastic training of the subject was begun in the common schools of his home county, and in this particular he was a fortunate youth, for the colored people of those early days in his part of the State took such an extraordinary interest in education that they maintained schools for a considerable period of the year at their own expense, and thus were able to give their children far better advantages of education than were usually customary. Suffice it to state that his progress in the schools of his county was so satisfactory that he was able to pass with credit the examination for a teacher's certificate. His college training was received at Clark University, Atlanta, Ga., at which institution of learning he matriculated in 1884. While a student in the literary department of Clark University, he began the study of theology and graduated from Gammon Theological Seminary in the year of 1888.

HIS CAREER AS A MINISTER OF THE GOSPEL.

After his graduation from Gammon Theological Seminary in the year of 1888 he was ordained as a minister of the gospel and

entered the traveling connection of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. In the course of over twenty years in the ministry he has become one of the strongest and one of the most influential preachers in his branch of the church, and he has been called to the pastorates of the leading churches of his denomination. He was the pastor of St. Philip A. M. E. Church, Savannah, Ga., for four years. He was a Presiding Elder in the State of Georgia for eight years, and for four years he was pastor of Bethel A. M. E. Church, Augusta, Ga., from which ministerial station he was called to the city of Memphis, Tenn., to take charge of Avery Chapel A. M. E. Church, which is one of the largest churches of the denomination. He is now pastor of this church, and is doing a work for it that is second to none in the church's history.

HONORS FROM HIS CHURCH.

Some of the most exalted honors in the gift of his denomination have been conferred upon Rev. J. A. Lindsay. In the year of 1902, without any solicitation on his part, he was elected Dean of the Theological Department of Morris Brown College, Atlanta, Ga., but he declined the honor because of his preference to remain in the pastorate. He is a member of the board of trustees of Wilberforce University, Morris Brown College, and Turner Normal Institute. He is a member of the board of directors of Payne Theological Seminary, Wilberforce, O. He has been a delegate to all of the general conferences that have been held since 1896.

HONORARY DEGREES.

As a recognition of his scholarship and general ability in the ministry, some of the leading institutions of learning of his denomination have conferred upon him the degree of Doctor of Divinity. This honor has been conferred upon him by Paul Quinn College, Waco, Tex.; Payne Theological Seminary, Wilberforce, O., and Wilberforce University.

A GREAT WORK AT AVERY CHAPEL.

The advent of Rev. J. A. Lindsay to the pastorate of Avery Chapel A. M. E. Church was one of the most timely occurrences in the history of that famous church, for its financial affairs had reached such a crisis that immediate relief was necessary. The wisdom of his appointment was made evident in just a few weeks after he had taken charge of the church when in his first rally he collected over \$1,200. Under his administration the church has

taken on new life; the attendance has more than doubled at some of the services, and the finances of the church have looked more encouraging than they had been for many years. All of the departments of the church have felt the effects of his aggressive and enthusiastic temperament, and have fallen in line to make his pastorate one of the most successful in the history of the church.

HIS SPLENDID WIFE.

In the year of 1891 Rev. Lindsay was united in the holy bonds of matrimony to Miss Pearl H. Slade of Griffin, Ga. His talented and devoted wife was educated at Morris Brown College, Atlanta, Ga., and is a woman of the highest culture and intelligence. She is of that temperament which makes her an ideal minister's wife, and she is endowed with all of those elements of popularity which make her husband so dear to his congregation. She is an artist of no mean ability, and she had the honor of winning the first prize in two instances for excellence at the Georgia Colored State Fair. Four children have been born to wife and husband to bring comfort and joy into their life.

A POPULAR MINISTER AND RACE MAN.

Rev. J. A. Lindsay is one of the most popular ministers that has ever graced the pastorate of Avery Chapel A. M. E. Church. He is an affable gentleman, with a hearty handshake and a cheerful smile and word for every one. He has no favorites in his church, but he is the humble servant of every man and every woman that claims fatherhood in God and brotherhood in mankind. He knows all of the peculiarities of the race, and the most tactful manner in which to adjust differences that otherwise would tend to divide and destroy the race. He is a thorough-going race man, and is ever ready to lend his encouragement to enterprises of the race. He is an able preacher and one whose sermons are replete with wise thought and useful suggestions for the elevation and uplift of the race. He is one of the most interesting, one of the most wide-awake and one of the most progressive ministers with whom Providence has ever blessed the city of Memphis, and it may be said of him that he is truly an effective and an able worker in the paths of righteousness.

**H. H. GARNER**

H. H. Garner, Little Rock, Ark.

SUPERINTENDENT OF DELIVERY LITTLE ROCK POSTOFFICE.

THAT the government of the United States is not hostile to the appointment of capable Negroes to positions of trust and responsibility in its service is demonstrated by the number of high positions that are filled by them in the public service. In searching the records to ascertain the names of those of the race who are filling the most important offices, our minds unconsciously revert to those who hold the most conspicuous and the best known positions in the departments of the government at Washington; but there are other positions of great responsibility that are not so generally known, but which require the exercise of as much judgment and the possession of as much ability as many of the positions about which so much is written and said.

In the city of Little Rock, Ark., a municipality which is right in the heart of the South, with all of its traditions respecting the Negro race, there is a responsible officer of the government whose official capacity can hardly be duplicated in the service of the government, for he is Superintendent of Delivery of the Little Rock postoffice, a position that is held by no other Negro in this country, so far as the records show. The name of this worthy citizen and government official is Mr. H. H. Garner, one of the race's most representative citizens and one of the government's most efficient servants.

HIS NATIVITY.

The subject of this sketch is a native of the State of Arkansas, and first opened his infant eyes in the city of Little Rock, August 4, 1864. He was born and reared in the capital city of his native State, and has risen to his present exalted position of trust and responsibility without having to quit the corporate limits of his native city.

HIS EDUCATION.

The subject is a graduate of the Little Rock High School, and went forth from that institution of learning armed with his diploma for service in the year of 1884. In a larger sense he is a graduate of the University of Worthy Effort, for he has ever striven to be worthy of the highest confidence on the part of his fellowmen. He has been a hard worker all his life, and his life is burdened with more responsibility now than at any other time in his long and active career.

A PLASTERER BY TRADE.

While a youth attending the public schools of Little Rock, the subject mastered the plasterer's trade during his vacations and followed his trade at intervals until he was honored with appointment as carrier in the postoffice at Little Rock, Ark. As a plasterer he became one of the most skilled in the City of Roses, and he did considerable contract work in that capacity.

A PEDAGOGUE IN ARKANSAS.

Among the many accomplishments of the subject may be mentioned the honorable and serviceable one of schoolmaster in his native State, for he taught school in Augusta, Ark., for two years after his graduation from the public schools of Little Rock. His career as a schoolmaster was cut short by his appointment to a position as carrier in the Little Rock postoffice.

SUPERINTENDENT OF DELIVERY.

In the year of 1890 Mr. Garner received his first appointment as carrier in the Little Rock postoffice, and served in that capacity for ten years, or until the year of 1900. He did not play with the mail sacks of the government, but he took his duties seriously. He became one of the most efficient carriers in the service, and was thus in line for promotion at the proper time. In the year of 1900 he was promoted to a clerkship in the postoffice, and remained in that position for two years. In the year of 1902 he was promoted to the responsible position of Superintendent of Letter Carriers, and served in that capacity until the year of 1909, when he was promoted to his present position of Superintendent of Delivery.

AN HONORED DELEGATE.

The subject has been honored in every possible manner officially since he has been connected with the postoffice department. He has represented his office as delegate to the National Letter Carriers' Association meetings at Grand Rapids, Mich., Toledo, O., Scranton, Pa., and Denver, Col. After his elevation to the position of Superintendent of Delivery he was elected a delegate to the National Association of Supervisors of Postoffice Employes, whose meeting was held in Chicago, Ill., and he was the only colored official present.

OTHER HONORS.

In addition to his official honors in the service of the government, he is Secretary of the Grand United Order of Odd Fellows'

Building Association of Little Rock. He is also a trustee of Wesley Chapel Methodist Episcopal Church, and Treasurer of the Little Rock Negro Business League.

HIS DEVOTED AND FAITHFUL WIFE.

Notwithstanding the fact that Mr. Garner is the highest ranking colored official in the Little Rock postoffice, yet he also fills a relationship that is far more exalted than his government position, and that is the relationship of devoted husband to his faithful wife. On December 19, 1886, Mr. Garner led to the altar Miss Henrietta Foster, of Little Rock, Ark. She is a graduate of the Little Rock High School and a woman of the highest character and refinement. She has contributed in every possible way to advance the success of her husband and to make his existence pleasant and happy. She is a veritable beam of sunshine to him in all his struggles, and she smiles her way to his heart in every misfortune and discouragement. She is a noble woman, and her devoted husband is happy to make this deserved statement concerning her most amiable qualities.

Their only daughter, Miss Grace Lucile Garner, is a student of Philander Smith College. She is a splendid young musician, and bids fair to give as good account of herself along intellectual lines as her worthy father has given along official lines.

A POPULAR AND DESERVING MAN.

Mr. Garner is one of the most popular men in his native city, and his real friends are very numerous. He is of such a temperament that no official honor or worldly success can spoil him, and if he were elevated to the most exalted office in the gift of the nation he would still be the same courteous, kindly and unaffected man. In the city of his nativity he is appreciated by all classes, as are indeed very few men of the race, and his word is a synonym of assurance for the performance of a duty as good as a bond of the government. He has a splendid home, a good position, an ideal wife and a reasonable share of the goods of this world. Under these circumstances he is justified in considering himself a very fortunate man, and this fact, in a measure, accounts for the unconscious smile of satisfaction that illumines his face, which smile has never been known to come off, be the sun shining or the rain falling.



PROF. J. A. Q. WILLIAMS

Prof. J. A. Q. Williams, B.S., Holly Springs, Miss.

SUPREME BANKER OF THE UNITED WOODMEN BENEFIT ASSOCIATION.



AT THE beginning of the internecine war that deluged this fair republic in blood, there was ushered into existence near the ambitious and progressive little town of Pontotoc, Miss., a being of humble parentage that was destined to play a conspicuous part in the welfare and uplift of the Negro race, a man whose strength of mind, tireless activity and indefatigable labors for the progress and elevation of the race have written his name in indelible letters on the brightest pages of the race's history and erected for himself, in the estimation of a grateful people, a monument nearly as enduring as time itself. In the person of Professor J. A. Q. Williams the race presents to the world one of the brightest examples of energy and success. If his eminently successful life is to be explained, the whole grand structure may be ascribed to his splendid foresight and his genius for hard and unremitting labor. He was endowed by nature with an extraordinary capacity for work, and it has been the pleasure of his life to work up to his greatest capacity at all times and under all circumstances.

HIS EDUCATION.

The early educational advantages of the future race leader were of the primitive plantation variety, and of the most meager character. He began his student career in the public schools of Fayette County, Mississippi, and continued his attendance therein until he had reached the age of fourteen or fifteen years, when he was prevailed upon by kind and solicitous friends to go to Holly Springs, Miss., to acquire a good education. The friends that were so interested in his welfare were some of the worthy, consecrated students of Rust University, who perceived in the earnest and ambitious youth the kind of stuff of which strong men and heroes are made. The town of Holly Springs, Mississippi, has for many years been the educational center for North Mississippi, and in those days of yore, as well as at the present time, all educational roads led to Holly Springs, where any worthy, ambitious boy would be given an opportunity to work and earn a great deal of the cost of his maintenance in school. Education was more of a novelty in those days than now, and the missionary spirit was more intense than now. Rust University and the State Normal School sent out from their classic walls many devoted and consecrated teachers, who were so deeply interested in the welfare and uplift of the race that they

were able to induce hundreds of raw, country youths to leave their homes with a burning desire for knowledge. The future race leader was one of them. He came from the primitive recesses of Fayette County to Holly Springs, Miss., for the sole purpose of getting an education. He came to Holly Springs in the latter part of the 70's for the purpose of attending the State Normal School during the regime of Professor W. B. Highgate, a scholarly man and eminent educator of those days. The State Normal School was, as its name suggested, an institution of learning under the auspices of the State of Mississippi, and was considered by all to be one of the best schools of its kind in the State. The subject of this sketch was one of the shining student lights of that school, and claimed among his intimate friends many of those who subsequently became some of the most distinguished men of the South. Professor Williams remained a student of the State Normal School until he became a member of the senior class when, for reasons satisfactory to himself, he transferred his allegiance to Rust University in the year of 1881.

The student life of the subject of this narrative was beset with many difficulties and hardships in the early days. He had to work his way in school by diligent service mornings and afternoons in the families of the good people of Holly Springs, but as soon as he was able to pass the examination and qualify in the teachers' profession a great deal of the life of drudgery was at an end because of his ability to keep school in his vacations. It was the happy privilege of Professor Williams to attend college both in the town of Holly Springs and in the State of Indiana, in the latter place receiving his degree of Bachelor of Science.

A PROFESSIONAL TEACHER FOR MANY YEARS.

As soon as Professor Williams had completed his course of education he took up as a life work the great task of training the youth of the race. He desired to accomplish some real good for his people, and he earnestly believed that his opportunities for doing good were infinitely greater in the teachers' profession than in any other profession. While a student attending college he taught school in vacation times for several years, but his permanent career as a schoolmaster began with the principalship of the city public school of Holly Springs, where he successfully held forth until his resignation to accept a position as teacher in the State Normal School at Holly Springs. He was for three years an honored member of the faculty of the State Normal School, and succeeded in impressing his personality upon those that were thrown in the sphere of his influence. It has been one of the cardinal principles of the life of

Professor Williams never to be satisfied until he has done his best to reach the top and has succeeded in doing so. Having been for three years one of the instructors of the State Normal School, the voice of responsibility and duty called him to a higher professional station when he accepted the call from Rust University to enter its faculty and teach mathematics. He went to Rust University and labored as teacher for thirteen years, a period of time that is almost unprecedented in the annals of the college. He was a capable, earnest and faithful teacher, and thousands of worthy men and young women receiving from him the inspiration and determination to aspire to a useful and noble life. Having served faithfully for thirteen years as a teacher in Rust University, the pressing responsibilities of business matters outside of the college necessitated his resignation from the faculty of the college in order to devote his whole time and energies to the development of the business of fraternal insurance.

ALWAYS RESIGNED HIS POSITION.

During his whole career as teacher he invariably resigned in order to receive a better appointment. This is the usual experience of this worthy and successful man. If a man has ability out of the ordinary there will always be a ready market for his talents. The services of Professor Williams were always in demand, and his every wish along professional lines was an open sesame to many of the best positions in the State. He has by this time probably terminated his professional career in the school room, but his real interest in the success and welfare of the teachers' profession will end only with the last breath of life in him. The many years of constant work in the school room have endeared the profession to him, and there will never come a time when the faithful teacher will not receive his greatest sympathy, choicest benedictions and most fervent prayers.

A FARSIGHTED MAN.

One of the strongest elements in the character of Professor Williams, and one that has had wonders to do with his phenomenal success in life, is his farsightedness, with which he is endowed in the superlative degree. Farsightedness itself is one of the most precious gifts of the intellect, but when it is harmoniously combined with the spirit of optimism, it is of inestimable value. Farsightedness lights up the way, but optimism makes us confident of the possibilities of the future. Many years ago there was hardly another citizen of Holly Springs that had any great amount of faith in either the educational or commercial future of the town.

Nature itself, when dressed up in its best garb, is not overly attractive around Holly Springs, Miss. Those frowning and forbidding-looking hills, those cavernous red gullies, and those desert-like wastes of sand are not calculated to make the average man overconfident and highly optimistic concerning the prospects of the town. To the ordinary lay mind it seems an utter impossibility to restore the chemical elements that have for decades been lost to the soil around Holly Springs. In spite of all the seemingly natural disadvantages of the region around Holly Springs, Professor Williams never did cease to have confidence in her future. When others were, figuratively speaking, despondent and wailing in sack cloth and ashes about the prospects of the town, the professor was a source of perpetual optimism. He never for a moment lost faith in the future of the town. Many years ago he began quietly to buy up at a nominal cost a great deal of the land on the borders of Rust University and in other sections of the town. No one seemingly cared for the land, and its owners seemed overjoyed to sell the no-account land to deluded purchasers even at a great sacrifice. Some of the good friends of Professor Williams ridiculed him for throwing his hard-earned money away by investing it in lands so worthless and God-forsaken that a crop of disturbance could not be raised on them. But the farsighted professor went on in the even tenor of his way, buying a bit of land here and a bit of land elsewhere, until he had bought up much of the land in the environs of Rust University.

As the years began to roll by new life and vigor were injected into the old and decrepit body of the municipality of Holly Springs, and the town began to show many evidences of growth and prosperity. With the erection of a new college and the consequent enlargement of the educational facilities of the town, it became more and more an intellectual center for the colored people of the State. Also, with the advent of industrial enterprises and plants to the city, its commercial importance has correspondingly increased. With this combined educational and industrial awakening on the part of the people of the city an impetus was given to trade and speculation in every direction. People began to buy lots for the purpose of building homes, and in an incredibly short time real estate began to treble and quadruple in value, and the land that had been practically given away began to take on the importance and dignity of a gold mine. Thus it was that the sagacious foresight of Professor Williams began to bear the rich results.

If the history of many of the colossal fortunes that have been accumulated in this country should be looked into, it would be found that in the majority of instances they were the result of just such wise foresight on the part of the pioneer citizens as is exhibited in the case of Professor Williams. Other citizens of the town of

Holly Springs had the same opportunity to purchase those lands that were purchased by the professor, and many of them had about as much money as he did. In those days the subject of this sketch was not the capitalist and land baron that he is today, but, on the contrary, he was a poor and struggling school teacher, with a penchant for saving every possible penny for the rainy day. His salary was small and his family had to be cared for and educated, yet he took advantage of every opportunity to buy land at a sacrifice and held the same in reserve for better times to come. It was no easy matter for a man of his small income to stint himself and family for an investment that seemed to be fraught with so much uncertainty. But he did so, and his wise foresight has been instrumental in building up for him one of the largest fortunes among the colored people of the entire State. He is gradually selling much of the land he had purchased at a mere nominal cost, and is receiving from its sale a princely profit. He has the last laugh on the wise-acs that presumed to question the wisdom of his business judgment when many years ago he began his spectacular career as a dealer in real estate.

THE FOUNDER OF THE UNITED WOODMEN BENEFIT ASSOCIATION.

One of the most enduring monuments erected to the memory of the worthy subject of this sketch is the great fraternity, the United Woodmen Benefit Association, of which he is the honored founder. This great organization, which numbers among its members a host of intelligent and progressive people, and operates in a half dozen States of this Southland, is a monument to the many years of indefatigable labor on the part of its founder, Professor J. A. Q. Williams. An organization of its character and influence among the good people of this Southland could not have reached the acme of excellence in a day, but it was a matter of growth and evolution. Back of every successful enterprise or organization there must be one directing and guiding hand, from which it derives inspiration and final success. Every successful organization of the race is a monument to the expended energies and personal sacrifices of some individual or set of individuals. A man will get out of life only an equivalent of what he has put into it in the shape of untiring energy and brains. The grand foresight of Professor Williams is evident in the very manner in which he set about to organize the United Woodmen Benefit Association. He knew the difficulties which always arise in the founding and organizing of a fraternal organization, and the gauntlet of criticism and prejudice through which both the organization and its founders must run in order to reach the goal of success. So Professor Williams in a quiet and

earnest way endeavored to secure the interest and co-operation of men of standing and influence among the people, and gradually lay the foundation of the great fraternity which today stands almost second to none in the sphere of its influence and benefaction. He first began the work of laying the foundation and perfecting the organization of the United Woodmen Benefit Association in the year of 1893, and for five long years his labors were unremitting night and day to prepare and establish on a firm foundation the undertaking that was so near and dear to him. In the course of time the efforts of an earnest, honorable man will begin to bear fruit, for persistence in a worthy cause combined with honesty of purpose was never more potent in human affairs than it is today. So in the year of 1898, after five long years of untiring labor, Professor Williams had the pleasure of seeing the first tangible fruits of his labors. He had succeeded in enlisting the favor, interest and co-operation of a few honorable, race-loving men like Lawyer H. H. Avant, of Helena, Arkansas, and ex-United States Senator H. R. Revels, deceased. This worthy triumvirate were the potential factors behind the successful organization of the United Woodmen Benefit Association, and the memory of each one of these splendid race leaders should be held in perpetual appreciation and reverence by those who have been recipients of the blessing of their labors and sacrifices.

The successful launching of a great fraternity is not only a matter of unremitting labor for a period of many years, but it entails great expense. It required several thousand dollars to organize and secure a charter for the United Woodmen Benefit Association. The founder of the order was not then so blessed with the goods of this world to the extent that he now is blessed, but he had such undying faith in the future of the organization that he was willing to make any reasonable sacrifice to carry out the plans of his life. Inasmuch as he did not have the necessary cash with which to secure a charter and begin operations, Professor Williams and his fellow townsman, Dr. H. R. Revels, signed notes and thus pledged their honor in order to secure the money with which to purchase the charter and put the organization upon a working basis. It was a great day in the lives of the founder and his few faithful workers when they saw the labors of many years grow up into a tangible reality. The founder and his colleagues selected Holly Springs, Mississippi, for the location of the home office of the fraternity, and the fraternity's first camp, Alpha No. 1, was organized in Holly Springs by Prof. J. A. Q. Williams.

THE OBJECT OF THE ORDER.

The object of the United Woodmen Benefit Association, as set down in its articles of incorporation, is "to combine all persons of sound bodily health, exemplary habits and good moral character, between the ages of eighteen and fifty years, into a fraternal and benevolent order; to provide funds for their relief, to comfort the sick and cheer the unfortunate by attentive ministration in time of sorrow and distress; to educate its members in social and intellectual matters; to encourage each other in business; to assist each other in obtaining employment; to promote fraternal love and unity; and to create a fund from which, after reasonable and satisfactory proof of the death of a beneficiary member, who has complied with the lawful requirements of the order, a sum not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000), shall be paid to his or her legal representatives dependent upon him or her as he or she may direct." The writer submits this extract in order to show the principles underlying the fraternity. They are ideal in their nature, and are sufficient to satisfy every possible want of a human being in the course of a lifetime, if faithfully adhered to. They run the whole gamut of human necessity and they are a happy combination of humane and practical ideas.

THE GROWTH OF THE ORDER.

The growth of the United Benefit Association has been marvelous, both from the standpoint of numbers and the amount that is paid to its members as a death benefit. Beginning with a mere handful of members in the year of 1899 and operating in the State of Mississippi alone, this great fraternity has grown by leaps and bounds, yea, by two leaps and two bounds, until it now has ten thousand members and operates not only in the State of Mississippi, but also in the States of Arkansas, Alabama and Georgia. Its death benefit policy has grown from the insignificant sum of fifty-three dollars (\$53), which was its first payment in the year of 1900, to one thousand dollars (\$1,000) at the present time. This is indeed a wonderful growth in the period of a decade, and shows the progressive and honorable character of the men that have been at the head of this organization and led it onward and upward to success and victory. In comparison with other fraternal organizations in the State of Mississippi, and other States of the South, the United Woodmen Benefit Association suffers nothing in any of the departments that make fraternal organizations strong in popular favor. Its growth has probably been as phenomenal as any of the fraternities of the race. Its death benefit is the maximum, as far as the records of the various fraternal organizations show. The organi-

zation pays its death benefit policies very promptly, and this business-like procedure on the part of the officers of the order has greatly commended it to popular favor. The United Woodmen Benefit Association is a business organization as well as a benevolent one, and promptness of payments is one of the cardinal obligations of the order. In the saddest hours of bereavement the prompt remittance of the death benefit will not only assuage much of the grief of the wife, husband or loved one, but it will minister to needs as imperative as will ever come into a human being's life.

CLASS AND CHARACTER OF MEMBERSHIP.

As to the class and character of the members of the United Woodmen Benefit Association, many of them are of the most intellectual and progressive types of the race. The founder of the organization, Professor J. A. Q. Williams, realizes the fact that intelligence and character form the basis of growth in all organized life, and there is no surer way in which to encompass the failure or death of any enterprise or organization than by appealing to the ignorance of the indiscriminate masses of any people. It is often the case that a mere transitory success is gained in this manner, but there will be no substantial and enduring growth. The order that is known far and wide as the United Woodmen Benefit Association numbers among its members some of the most gifted men and women of the race. Consecrated ministers of the gospel, schoolmasters of ability, successful business men, farmers in independent circumstances, professional men of eminence in the various walks of life, and worthy and honorable working men, all form a veritable Macedonian phalanx in this invincible army of men and women that are so vitally interested in the social, intellectual and business welfare of the race. No aspersion can be cast upon the character and intelligence of the great body of faithful and earnest men and women that form the bone and sinew of this organization.

THE NEED FOR FRATERNITIES.

As to the imperative need of fraternities among the members of the race, there is great diversity of opinion. However, it is the consensus of opinion among the majority of intelligent representatives of the race that the benefit of fraternities of the race has been proven to be far greater than the injury to the interest of the race. Owing to the fact that the race is yet an infant race, having hardly emerged from the swaddling clothes of its civilization, it is extremely difficult for the race to adapt itself to the complex conditions of modern civilization without careful assistance and guidance on the

part of some constituted authority. The institution of slavery put a blight on the race that only the light and intelligence of the teeming centuries to come will be able to destroy. If the problems of modern life are such as baffle the intelligence and wits of men of the most thorough education, what must be the present difficult problems of existence to those unfortunate ones who are able neither by birth nor education to cope with them? The fact that the masses of the race are generally careless and improvident of the rainy day necessitates some regulated system whereby their wants may be jealously guarded and provided for. The problem of sickness, disease and death is a serious matter with any class of people, but especially with the poorer classes of any people. The cost of living and procuring the barest necessities of life is so great that it forms a menace to the prosperity of the nation itself. What, then, must be the condition of the poor man who has never been rigidly taught the principles of economy and thrift? Under present economic conditions fraternal organizations have been a Godsend to the race, and especially to the poor classes. They have brought success to the needy and comfort to the suffering; they have stood vigil over the couch of the stricken and diseased, and nursed them back to the blessings of health, strength and happiness. They have buried in comfort and decency a host of loved ones that have passed away and saved the bodies of thousands from interment in pauper's graves. They have brought relief to the widows and orphans in their bereavement and rescued thousands from abject poverty and dependence. By the timely payment of the death benefit they have dried up the tears of apprehension, even though the tears of grief should continue to course down the cheeks of the widowed and orphaned ones. The princely benefit that the reputable and responsible fraternities pay to their members is a substantial consideration that neither criticism nor ridicule can destroy. Fraternal statistics show that the fraternal organizations of this country are paying out for sick and death benefits a sum total of not less than fifty million dollars (\$50,000,000) annually to their members. This is an enormous amount of money, and is capable of doing an incalculable amount of good.

CREDIT TO THE FOUNDER.

Prof. J. A. Q. Williams is the founder of the great organization that is known as the United Woodmen Benefit Association, and whatever of inspiration and strength that has been revealed in the operations of this fraternity is a monument to his untiring labors. It has been the privilege of very few men, nearly singly and alone, to build such a monument to humanity as the founder of this order

has succeeded in building. The order has penetrated the utmost regions in the State of Mississippi and adjacent States and carried the blessings of intelligence and benevolence to generations that are unborn. Professor Williams is Supreme Banker of the organization, and carefully looks after the financial affairs of the order. It is needless to elaborate on the fact that the professor is one of the ablest and one of the most successful financiers of the race. It is reasonable to suppose that a man who has displayed so much ability and success in the management of his personal fortune would be as successful in the management of the fortune of others. The record of Professor Williams in the administration of the affairs of his exalted office is such that the organization has experienced a prosperity nearly without parallel in the annals of fraternity life. This is an age of the business man and financier, and no enterprise or organization should trust its future to the judgment of inexperienced and irresponsible men.

THE J. A. Q. WILLIAMS LAND COMPANY, OF MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE.

Reference has already been made to the genius of Professor J. A. Q. Williams as a successful dealer in real estate in the town of Holly Springs, Mississippi, but his real estate operations in his home town have been a mere bagatelle in comparison with the colossal character of his real estate operations in the city of Memphis. While the city of Memphis has for the last two decades been in the throes of a substantial real estate boom and millions of dollars have been risked in legitimate speculations by the financiers and capitalists of the white race, yet it has remained for a Mississippian of color to come to the city of Memphis and inaugurate the most sensational era in realty transactions in the history of the race. Hundreds of attractive and valuable land subdivisions have been formed and opened up to settlement by white real estate syndicates, but never before this time had any extensive and valuable tract of land been opened up by colored capitalists for the benefit of colored people. The only big land syndicate that has ever been organized and promoted by colored men in the city of Memphis is the company that has recently been brought into existence by the genius and wealth of Professor J. A. Q. Williams. The J. A. Q. Williams Land Company of Memphis is a chartered realty company, and is doing business under an authorized capital of \$50,000. The company owns twenty-one (21) acres of land a short distance south from the corporate limits of Memphis. The land in question is situated in close proximity to the hundreds of manufacturing plants in the suburbs of South Memphis, which give to the city its pre-eminence as a manufacturing center. There are very few citizens

of Memphis that are fully informed as to the great manufacturing possibilities of the city. The realty of the J. A. Q. Williams Land Company is situated close to one of the greatest manufacturing sections of the South. Of the hundreds of manufacturing enterprises that have been brought to the city of Memphis in the past decade or two the majority of them have located in that section of the suburb that is in close proximity to the J. A. Q. Williams Land Company. The property of this company is in the shape of a great triangular surface, comprising twenty-one acres of land, all of which has been divided into small lots for the real estate market. In the whole subdivision there are about three hundred and fifty (350) lots, 20 feet by 100 feet each. These lots are now on the market for prospective purchasers, and are being sold at a cost ranging from \$210 to \$250 per lot, according to location. The financial strength of the company is such that its promoters are able to offer these lots on terms that will put them in reach of the poorest classes of the race. The property has certain natural advantages, both as to location and drainage, and it is one of the most valuable tracts of land in the region around Memphis for the use of the poor and laboring classes of people. These lots will prove of inestimable value as homes for the poor and deserving classes of the race who work in the hundreds of manufactories in that section of the suburbs of Memphis. It is doubtful if there is another land subdivision in the South that is more happily situated than the J. A. Q. Williams Land Company's subdivision. Situated nearly under the shadow of the smokestacks of the various manufacturing plants of that section, the buyers of lots in this subdivision would be close to their work and would not have to suffer the inconvenience that is incident to a long distance from one's home to his place of work. The price of these lots is in reach of the poorest man that is ambitious to own a roof over the heads of his loved ones and those that are near and dear to him. This is a golden opportunity for men of small means and small earning capacity to purchase a home for their wives and children, for with the ownership of a home a man takes upon himself the dignity of American citizenship. Every man owes it to himself to safeguard the welfare of his family by working, sacrificing and struggling to provide for it a home. If a man provides a home for his wife and loved ones there can be no doubt of the fact that he loves them. The three hundred and fifty lots into which this vast tract of land has been divided are large enough to locate a multitude of people. Every effort will be made by the owners of this subdivision to provide every convenience that will be necessary for the comfort and happiness of those who will purchase lots in the subdivision. There will probably be erected a pavilion for amusement purposes and a small park for the public convenience of the people of the subdivision.

AN ENTERPRISING BUSINESS MAN.

Professor Williams has for years been one of the busiest and one of the hardest worked men in the State of Mississippi. Between the labors of founding and putting upon a substantial basis the United Woodmen Benefit Association and the prosecution of his many business activities along other lines, he has not known a day of absolute rest for many years. The professor is of an active, sanguine, ambitious temperament, and believes in doing things all the time. His success as a business man has few parallels in the history of the race. He has a genius for organization and combining great interests, and if he had been blessed with the privileges and opportunities of a member of the dominant race, he would have contested financial supremacy with the greatest financiers and capitalists of the country. If a man can accomplish such marvelous results with the handicaps under which he has had to labor, what would he not be capable of achieving under favorable conditions? He is one of the high-class, representative men of the town of Holly Springs, and he is popular alike with both races. He is a man whose word and judgment have a high rating in the business world, and his signature to a note is just as safe as the income from a government bond. He is a stockholder in the North Mississippi Fair Association; he is a stockholder of the People's Bank of Holly Springs. He is a director of the Union Guaranty Company of Mississippi, a corporation that was recently organized in the State and capitalized at \$50,000 for the purpose of doing a general life insurance and bonding business. Professor Williams is President of the J. A. Q. Williams Land Company of Memphis, Tennessee, and the genius that made this great land company a possibility.

A LARGE PROPERTY HOLDER.

Professor Williams is one of the largest land owners in the town of Holly Springs. In that city he is the owner of nine pieces of improved property and from ten to fifteen pieces of unimproved property. He is also the owner of one hundred acres of farming land in Marshall County, Miss. But it is in the city of Memphis that the business capacity of Professor Williams is shown to the greatest advantage. Just a few years ago witnessed his first appearance in the city of Memphis as a prospective promoter and real estate capitalist. He came to Memphis to look into the investment situation in realty matters. He came to the city in a quiet manner, without his advent being accompanied by any beating of tom-toms or flashing of the calcium light. He carefully weighed the many advantages of the city of Memphis as an investment center, and he came to the conclusion that he would be warranted in making the

city the center of his real estate business and investment activities. It was the same old story of success over again. He bought up considerable property at sacrifice values for ready cash, and repeated such business transactions at short intervals until he is now rated as one of the largest property owners of the city of Memphis. He is the owner of twenty-six pieces of improved property and thirteen pieces of unimproved property. One of his more pretentious pieces of property is the substantial building in which is located the Union Drug Store. It is a two-story brick building, and is estimated to be worth in the neighborhood of \$15,000. While it is largely a matter of guesswork to estimate any man's wealth, yet to those that know the many business investments with which he is connected and the extraordinary success that he has achieved in nearly everything that he has undertaken, his wealth closely borders on a sum that can not be expressed by less than six figures. Of one thing there can be no doubt: Professor Williams is one of the wealthiest colored men of the State of Mississippi. In the suburbs of Memphis alone the value of his realty possessions would be considered a comfortable fortune for any man. The wonderful financial success of Professor Williams in the manipulation of real estate in the city of Memphis has been a revelation to the colored people of that city, because they had never seen such spectacular dealings in real estate and such meteoric rise to fame and fortune.

THE SUPREME BANKER'S OFFICE.

Professor Williams is Supreme Banker of the United Woodmen Benefit Association, and in that capacity he looks after the financial affairs of the order. His office in Holly Springs is fitted up with the necessary equipment and clerical attendants to enable the accounts of the order to be settled with speed and accuracy.

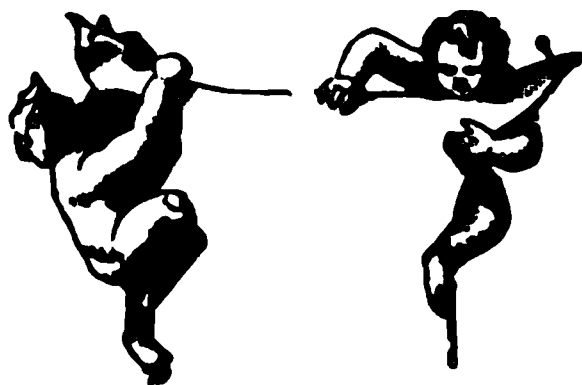
HIS LAMENTED WIFE.

In the month of August, 1885, the worthy subject of this sketch was united in marriage to Miss Ella Wheatley of Holly Springs, Miss. She was educated at Rust University, and for six years she was an efficient and faithful teacher in the public schools of her State. She was a woman of splendid judgment and a faithful and interested counselor in the business affairs of her husband. She was economical, thrifty and ambitious to gain a firm foothold in life. She had a motherly determination and ambition for her children, and her labors and sacrifices materially aided herself and husband to provide for their education and necessities. It was not the will of benign Providence for her to live to see the full fruition of her

hopes, but she did live long enough to rejoice because of their success. The noble wife and devoted mother departed this life December 15, 1909, triumphant in the faith which she had long before embraced and a shining example of a useful and serviceable woman.

HIS CHILDREN.

Miss Shirley Kate Williams, the only daughter, is a student of the collegiate department of Rust University, and a young woman of many virtues and great promise. Of the other two children, Mr. Wheatley Williams is a skilled artisan and Dr. G. L. Williams is one of the leading physicians of Memphis, Tennessee. Professor Williams is a successful man from the standpoint of actual achievement and a bright example of manhood and honor for the colored American youth to emulate. By his own indefatigable labors he has built up a fortune from nothing to one of such proportions as to excite the wonder of those that were acquainted with him in the days of a score of years ago. His success has been so uniform that everything that he has touched has been transformed into gold. At first thought the professor's success may be attributed to luck, but the only luck in the whole transactions covering a period of years was that luck which comes from the possession of a good judgment and the practice of the golden rule. The life of Professor J. A. Q. Williams is an open book, on whose pages all may read the lessons which lead to success, wealth and honor.



Rev. Harvey A. Onque, A.M., S. T. B., New Orleans, La.

SECRETARY OF YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.

THE reverend subject of this narrative is not a Frenchman, as his name would suggest, notwithstanding the fact that he is living in a French city, but he is an everyday American citizen, proud of both the opportunity and ability to do his daily duties according to the light of his conscience and reason. He has but recently become a citizen of the Crescent



REV. H. A. ONQUE

City, but he has stamped his personality upon the institutions of the city of his adoption in no uncertain manner.

HIS BIRTHPLACE AND MOTHER.

Rev. Onque was born in Cranberry, New Jersey, January 2, 1866, and at that time he enjoyed the distinction of being a new baby in the very beginning of a new year.

His mother, Mrs. Gertrude Onque, was a highly intelligent woman and used to read to her son when he was a mere child. She was prayerfully solicitous that her son should be an educated man, and she did what she could to put his infant feet in the pathway up the hill of learning and righteousness. She lived to see the answer to her prayers, and her son not only a man of education, but one of the leading divines of his denomination. She departed this life in the year of 1899, happy in the knowledge that she had done her whole duty by the dear one whom Providence had committed to her care.

HIS EDUCATION.

He attended the public schools of his native town until he had advanced to the upper grades, and in the year of 1889 he matriculated at Wilberforce University in the incumbency of Dr. S. T. Mitchell as president.

The worthy subject graduated from Wilberforce University in the year of 1894. In the summer of his graduation he was a member of a musical aggregation that was generally known as "The Seven Wilberforce Students," a concert company which toured the Middle West and a considerable part of the East. It has been his good fortune to sing well, for nature has blessed him with a voice of unusual sweetness and power. In the autumn of the year of his graduation from Wilberforce University he was Assistant Secretary of the Young Men's Christian Association of Philadelphia, Pa., and he was promoted from that station to the general secretaryship of the Goffe Street Branch of the Young Men's Christian Association of New Haven, Connecticut.

In the year of 1896 he entered Lincoln University and took a course in the languages and theology. He completed his theological course in that school and was awarded the degree of Bachelor of Sacred Theology. In connection with his completion of the course in theology and the classics he was honored with the degree of Master of Arts in the year of 1900.

A MINISTER IN THE SOUTH.

In the month of February, 1900, before he graduated with the degree of A. M., he accepted the call to the pastorate of Allison Presbyterian Church of Little Rock, Arkansas, to which charge he went to labor directly after graduation. His church is a member of the White River Presbytery of Arkansas. He was the pastor of this church until the year of 1907, when he resigned to accept the position of Sabbath School Missionary for the State of Arkansas and filled the same for three years.

While he was pastor of Allison Presbyterian Church in the city of Little Rock, he built a commodious brick church for the parishioners, and thus put the church upon a substantial basis in more respects than one. For the three years of his service in Sabbath School work in the State of Arkansas his duties were to organize Sabbath Schools and instruct the various schools in the latest and best methods of the work. His labors were under the Board of Publication and Sabbath Schools, with headquarters in Philadelphia.

During his ten years of faithful and consecrated work in the State of Arkansas he was honored by the Presbytery with every office in its gift. He was Moderator of the Presbytery, and he was a Commissioner to the General Assembly at Los Angeles, California, in the year of 1903. There was not a preacher in the State of Arkansas connected with the Presbytery that was more generally known and more highly honored than the reverend subject of this sketch, and there was profound regret felt throughout the State when the reverend gentleman severed his connection with the work of the denomination in the State.

SECRETARY OF Y. M. C. A.

In the month of November, 1909, Rev. Onque accepted the call to the general secretaryship of the Colored Young Men's Christian Association of the city of New Orleans, La., where he is now laboring. His former experience in the work was of great benefit to him in his new field of activity, for he was able immediately to take the work in hand with a certain degree of success. Of the Y. M. C. A. of this country there are few, if any, as successful as the one in the city of New Orleans, and it may be of interest to give some of the details of the work and the facilities provided its members.

The association has a building of its own erected at a total cost of \$9,000. It represents the most intense efforts of some of the best men and women of the race, who put their shoulders to the plow and gave both their time and their labor to bring this monument of their work into existence. The building has an auditorium, a reading room and library, a reception room, a gymnasium, an amusement room, a lunch room, the General Secretary's office, the sleeping apartments of the General Secretary, and the kitchen. In rear yard of the association building there is the Y. M. C. A. park, with platforms for physical work. There is in connection with the work of the association a large physical culture class under two experienced directors. The senior class in physical culture is under the direction of Mr. George Floyd as chief and Mr. Clarence Janes as assistant. The junior class in physical culture is under the direct instruction and supervision of Rev. H. A. Onque. In the physical

work of the association they use all of the facilities and paraphernalia of the modern, up-to-date Young Men's Christian Association, such as Indian clubs, dumb bells, horizontal bars, punching bags and the like. There is training given in the manly art of self-defense, and there is a baseball team under the direction of Mr. Edward Langhorn; also, a track team is in evidence.

A FEW OF THE PILLARS OF THE ASSOCIATION.

The man whose efforts and sacrifices have meant most for the association is Dr. Robert E. Jones, the able editor and distinguished divine of the Crescent City. He is the editor of the Southwestern Christian Advocate, and one of the most orthodox race men in the wide world. He is the president of the Board of Directors, and his efforts are largely responsible for the success of the work of this time. Dr. L. T. Burbridge, one of the leading physicians and citizens of the city of New Orleans, is vice-president of the Board of Directors. Prof. A. H. Colwell, a clerk in the customs department of the United States government, is secretary of the Board of Directors. Mr. E. B. Bell, a worthy and useful citizen, is the honored treasurer of the Board of Directors.

In connection with the work of the association is the Woman's Auxiliary, of sixty of the best women in the city of New Orleans, representing the different denominations of the city. They have already worked like Trojans and were successful in raising over two thousand dollars for the cause of the association. They are grand and noble women and no cause can fail of success with such devoted women working in its behalf. Of the Woman's Auxiliary, Mrs. Cora Ford is president, Mrs. P. H. V. Dejoie, vice-president; Miss Emma Davis, Secretary, and Mrs. T. B. Brown, Treasurer.

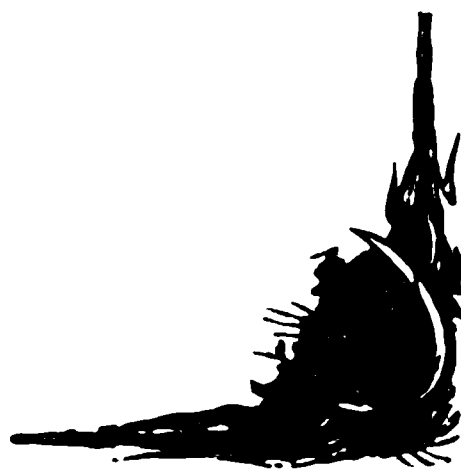
HIS LAMENTED WIFE.

On the 19th of June, in the year of 1901, Rev. H. A. Onque was united in marriage to Miss Mary Olivia Patterson, of Philadelphia, Pa., now deceased. She was a woman of splendid education and great culture, and was for a period of ten years one of the leading teachers in the public schools of the city of Wilmington, Del. She came South to share the work with her devoted husband in the city of Little Rock, but fate decreed that she should not live to see the full fruition of her husband's labors in the Southland.

ADDENDA.

Rev. Onque is a gentleman of charming personality, and he is as simple and unpretentious as he is charming in disposition. He

is a man that is noted for his earnestness in everything that he undertakes, and if real, conscientious work can achieve the desired end, success will be assured. He is a man whose good qualities of mind and heart are appreciated by all, and his experience both in religious and social circles has been one of satisfaction and pleasure. He is a man of wide and varied experience in the Christian world, and he stands for everything that is best and purest in church life. He is a scholar, a splendid speaker, a worthy gentleman and a Christian worker of indefatigable zeal, and his efforts in the cause of peace and righteousness have already received their due reward.





I. T. MONTGOMERY

Isaiah T. Montgomery, Mound Bayou, Miss.

FOUNDER OF MOUND BAYOU, MISS.



THE world has ever accorded to the Anglo-Saxon race the distinction of being the foremost of all races in the willingness of its members to sail unknown seas, penetrate dangerous wilds and carry to virgin regions the blessings of human settlement, development and progress. While the Anglo-Saxon race has done many things to merit the great compliment that has so generally been bestowed upon it, yet in many isolated instances members of the Negro race have braved the perils and dangers of forest, jungle, disease and death in order to spread the blessings of civilization. Among the members of the Negro race that may be considered in the light of a real founder of a community for the race no one is worthier of greater appreciation, praise and honor than the able and progressive race leader whose name graces the title page of this sketch, Hon. Isaiah T. Montgomery, the founder of Mound Bayou, Miss.

BORN IN THE DAYS OF SERVITUDE.

The worthy subject of this sketch was born about thirty miles south of Vicksburg, Miss., on the Hurricane Plantation, in Warren County, May 21, 1847. He was a slave of Mr. Joseph Davis, the eldest brother of the lamented president of the Southern Confederacy, Hon. Jefferson Davis, and his connection with the brother of the man whose memory still lives most sacred in the hearts of the people of this Southland has added much interest to the subject whose merits along lines of real achievement entitle him to the same amount of appreciation and honor.

BENJAMIN T. MONTGOMERY, HIS FATHER.

If the subject of this sketch is entitled to receive any commendation from his countrymen for services rendered in the cause of human progress, he is simply following in the line that was written in indelible letters by his talented father, Mr. Benjamin T. Montgomery. His father was born in the State of Virginia, and was taught the secrets of school and books by his young master, who was one of his best friends. By the aid of the weird and flickering light of pine knots his master taught him to trace letters and read. The training that was thus secretly given him by his youthful master gave him a good start on the intellectual road of life, and

he finally became one of the most learned slaves that was ever in servitude. He learned enough to become a skilled civil engineer, a first-class bookkeeper and accountant, and a versatile, all-round man. His rare ability proved of invaluable benefit to his master and merited the master's every confidence. He was given unusual privileges by his master and used his privileges wisely. He kept store for himself and was patronized by his master. During the civil war Mr. Joseph Davis, his master, had to refugee, and left his plantation in care of the father of the subject of this sketch, but the father himself had to emigrate to Cincinnati, Ohio, to escape some of the terrors of early reconstruction. After the war had ended he returned to the Davis plantation and kept a general store.

THE SUBJECT'S EDUCATION.

The subject's father taught him to read and write, and instructed him in the principles of arithmetic until he had been advanced to long division. When quite a youth his unusual looks and precocity attracted the attention of Mr. Davis, who had him transferred to his own house to serve as office boy. Mr. Davis was a retired lawyer and politician, and kept in close touch with the leading public men of his day and time. The new office boy arranged alphabetically the papers which had accumulated for several years, copied many letters and looked after the general literary work of his master until the close of the civil war. In all of his copying of official documents he had to write a uniform, clear and clean hand, and in this manner the subject became one of the most famous penmen of color in the South. The extraordinary amount of copying official documents, while he was in the service of his master, was the cause of his being the excellent penman that he is today. Though now more or less advanced in age, he still writes with ease that copper plate handwriting for which he has been noted for so many years. His opportunities for mental culture when a boy and young man were unlimited. Constantly in the company of books and intellectual men, it is not at all marvelous that he should have absorbed a great per cent. of what he read and saw and thus became one of the best informed men of his day.

A PLANTER IN 1867.

In the year of 1863 the subject joined the United States Navy and served on the Mississippi River, but his service was cut short by disability and he went to Cincinnati, where he remained until the close of the war in 1865. He returned to the State of Mississippi in 1866 and with his father and brother bought the old Davis

plantation, which they cultivated for thirteen years. This plantation contained four thousand acres of land, of which three thousand acres were in cultivation. While this plantation had been regularly purchased by the subject and his father, yet in course of time there was an agreement to annul the original contract, which was done, and the land thus reverted to its original owners or their heirs. The subject raised his last crop in that section of the State of Mississippi about in the year of 1885, and then moved to the city of Vicksburg, Miss., where he ran a small store and restaurant near the National Cemetery.

THE CALL OF THE DELTA.

About in the year of 1886 his attention was first attracted to the delta section of the State. The Louisville, New Orleans & Texas Railroad, which had built its line through that section of the country, owned one million acres of land which it desired to open up for settlement along its right of way. There was a great desire on the part of the promoters and owners of this great railroad corporation to settle that miasmatic region with colored people, because it was then thought that white people could not stand the hardships and climate of that region. As an inducement to settlers, liberal concessions were made as to prices of land and terms of payments. At that time Major G. W. McGinness was the land commissioner of the railroad in question, and took active measures by which to induce people to locate in that region. He went to the subject of this sketch to enlist his efforts and influence in settling the delta country with members of his race. The Land Commissioner agreed to put at Mr. Montgomery's disposal a civil engineer, and he empowered Mr. Montgomery to travel up and down the right of way of the railroad until he succeeded in finding a location that suited him. Having accepted the proposition of the Land Commissioner, about a week after the 4th of July in the year of 1887, the civil engineer arrived in the city of Vicksburg, Miss., to accompany Mr. Montgomery on the trip of exploration and settlement. They traveled a few days, making observations, and finally stopped at Merigold. From Merigold they came to the present site of Mound Bayou, where they beheld nature in all of its virgin luxuriance, gigantic monarchs of the forest, cane from twenty to thirty feet high, briers and forest so thick and jungle-like as to be nearly impenetrable. Deeply impressed with this spot as a favorable location for settlement, he stayed there from morning until late in the afternoon. The subject agreed to take the plot for all the lands for miles around for the purpose of opening them up for settlement

THE FOUNDER OF MOUND BAYOU.

After thus selecting the site for settlement, he went to Memphis, Tenn., to discuss with the official powers his plans for handling the lands. It was agreed that he should sell the lands to his own people after keeping what he desired for his own uses. He was too sagacious to commit to those officials the particular object that he had in view. He had long entertained positive views as to the power of environment in the life of a race, and that if the welfare of any people is to be conserved due regard must be paid to the home life of the people. The ownership of houses and lands does not confer the greatest blessings upon any people, but it is the intelligence and purity of their home life. The founder of the settlement of Mound Bayou ever had in mind the development of the home life of its citizens, and if this unique community has made any particular or creditable progress in its economic and social life, it has been due mainly to the wisdom and foresight of its sagacious founder.

Mr. Isaiah T. Montgomery first picked out 840 acres of land for himself and family; the remainder was put on the market for sale. It was a very easy matter to enter into an agreement with the railroad officials to settle that virgin country, but the actual work of inducing the settlers to locate was a herculean task, and in the accomplishment of his task he had to summon to his command all the resources of the physical as well as mental man. He traveled, held conferences, distributed literature dilating on the advantages of the new country, lectured and resorted to every reasonable experiment that would tend to explain the wonderful opportunities to his people and induce them to take advantage of them. It takes very strong oratory and cogent reasoning to induce members of the Negro race to leave their already settled abodes and move into a virgin land to undergo countless hardships, but Mr. Montgomery finally triumphed. His first settlers were influenced in the following manner: In one of his splendid lectures to them he eloquently dwelt on the fact that "all the countries of the world were originally in just as primitive a state, if not more so, as the new delta country for whose settlement he was making his appeal; that the colored people had opened up this great American country, and their sweat and industry had made it blossom like the rose; that if their ancestors had done these same wonderful things, why should they not be willing to do likewise; that before them lay wonderful possibilities and riches, and that they only had to accept this opportunity, move into the new country, and soon earn for themselves freedom and industrial independence."

The colored people of the Mound Bayou settlement own about

30,000 acres of land, extending ten miles from east to west and three miles from North to South. Of this great acreage Mr. Montgomery himself has sold two-thirds to his people.

A MEMBER OF THE MISSISSIPPI CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION
IN 1890.

Possibly the most unique political honor that was ever conferred upon Mr. I. T. Montgomery was that of election as delegate to the Mississippi Constitutional Convention in the year of 1890. He had the honor of being the only representative of the Negro race in the membership of that august body, and his oratorical efforts in behalf of his race were worthy of the occasion and the man. He felt himself called upon by the exigencies of the situation to vindicate the integrity of his race, and his plea in the race's behalf would have done credit to some of the greatest orators of the present generation. The distinguished orator knew that the primary object of the convention was to eliminate the Negro as a factor from the political life of the State and to reduce the race correspondingly in the social scale. The address that the orator delivered in the Constitutional Convention against the abrogation of the Negro's political rights was one of the most masterly efforts that was ever delivered in the State of Mississippi, and electrified the whole nation. If there ever was an inspired effort, his speech certainly was. The human element entered in his discourse, and that is what gives eloquence to human tongues. He saw the political rights of his people, those rights imperiled for which millions of men had willingly resorted to arms and braved the dangers of shot and shell on a hundred battlefields of the republic to confer upon the people of the Negro race. His heart was touched and set on fire by the overwhelming wrong which was about to be perpetrated upon his race and all of the dormant powers of his intellect were aroused to help him make his final plea before the bar of public justice for his people. His was an impassioned plea for moderation in dealing with the people of his race, and it was couched in language as appropriate as it was elegant and diplomatic. He was not rash and intemperate in his utterances, nor did he Ajax-like defy the storm, but he was the embodiment of sincerity, prudence and discretion. His famous address did not prevent the passage of the plank that was hostile to the suffrage of the race, but the conciliatory spirit that it breathed did much to soften the asperities that were the result of its enactment.

MR. MONTGOMERY AS AN ORATOR.

As an orator Mr. Montgomery takes rank among the first of the race in the State of Mississippi. He has an unusual vocabulary of expressive and precise English, and can grace any occasion

with the most felicitious diction. There is never any studied attempt at oratory, but every utterance bespeaks his natural equipment in that department of human excellence. The distinguishing quality of his oratory is the profundity of thought that ever permeates it. His utterances bespeak the fact that he is a thinker, a scholar, and a statesman of the highest order. Age has but the more sharpened his wit and developed his powers, so that he stands almost unapproachable as a public man and leader of the people. He is a diplomatist, a logician of the first rank, and a pleasing speaker for the untutored masses, as well as the cultured classes. Altogether he is a rare man and gifted speaker, and such as only Mississippi soil and climate can produce.

A GENIUS FOR BUSINESS.

The subject of this sketch is one of the best business men in the State of Mississippi. There is no reason why he should not be, because his whole life from the days of slavery down to the present time has been connected with business pursuits. He is President of the Mound Bayou Oil Mill & Manufacturing Company, a corporation that is capitalized at \$100,000, and destined to become one of the greatest enterprises of the race. He is a director of the Bank of Mound Bayou, one of the leading banks of the delta. He is President of the Farmers' Co-Operative Mercantile Company of Mound Bayou, a corporation that is capitalized at \$10,000, and that began business April 15, 1911, with no debts and over half of its capital stock paid in. He is a stockholder of the Mound Bayou Loan & Investment Company. He is a stockholder of the Union Guaranty Company, a bonding and insurance company of the State of Mississippi. He is the proprietor of a three-stand Munger ginnery, which handles between two thousand and two thousand five hundred bales of cotton annually. This ginnery is valued at \$7,000. He is the proprietor of a sawmill that is valued at \$2,500.

ONE OF THE LAND KINGS OF THE DELTA.

It should cause no surprise that the man who had the honor of founding the settlement of Mound Bayou should be one of its greatest land holders. The condition of the original compact was that the subject should reserve as many acres as he needed for his own use and sell the other. This part of his contract he carried out to the letter, just as any other sensible man would have done. He now owns about six hundred acres right around the town of Mound Bayou. He buys and sells land also, and is considered one of the biggest land kings of the delta.

HIS DEVOTED WIFE.

In the year of 1870 Mr. Montgomery was united in marriage to

Miss Mattie Robbs, of Port Anderson, Boliver County, Miss. Their forty-one years of married life have been blessed with twelve children, of whom six are still living. Mrs. Montgomery is one of the real queens of the delta, for she presides with queenly dignity over the affairs of her household and dispenses hospitality with prodigal hands to the strangers that come within her gates. She is a woman that is possessed of all of the oldtime virtues of character, and



MR. AND MRS. I. T. MONTGOMERY

such a woman as would assist almost any sort of a real man to rise in life. It has been her lot to have to attend to the affairs of her husband while he was away laboring for the interests of the marvelous little settlement of which he is the founder, and how well

she shouldered the responsibility is evidenced by the family's prosperity today. She is a great woman, and a fit companion for her great husband.

THEIR CHILDREN.

Mr. and Mrs. Montgomery have made every reasonable provision for the education of their children, and few children of the race have been so carefully trained and so liberally provided for. Miss Eva P. Montgomery was for three years a student of Colorado High School, Colorado Springs, Col. She graduated from the college preparatory department of Straight University, New Orleans, La., in 1910. She is private secretary of her father. Miss Corinne E. Montgomery completed the normal and commercial courses at Straight University in 1908. She is employed in the Mound Bayou postoffice, and has served as assistant in the office since 1908. Miss Lillie B. Montgomery attended the Mound Bayou Normal School, and is a clerk in her father's office. Mrs. Ollie B. Mosby, of St. Louis, Mo., is the estimable and talented wife of a prominent druggist of that city, and Mrs. J. H. Kent, another daughter, is the faithful companion of the proprietor of two up-to-date tonsorial parlors in the city of St. Louis. Mrs. M. C. Booze is the faithful and devoted wife of Mr. E. P. Booze, of Mound Bayou, Miss.

HIS PERSONALITY.

The subject is a gentleman of polished presence and charming personality. He is an interesting conversationalist, with an inexhaustible fund of wholesome information concerning men and things. He is a wise man that is neither conceited nor spoiled because of his wisdom, and he is a clean man that is not at all presumptuous because of his moral virtues. He is kind, courteous, obliging and thoroughly consistent in everything that he advocates. He has every requisite and equipment for successful and wise leadership of his people, and as long as he is alive and in harness it will never be said or written of the unique and progressive settlement of which he is the honored founder that it was a "Mississippi Bubble."

R. A. Williams, M.D., Helena, Ark.

FOUNDER AND SUPREME PRESIDENT OF THE ROYAL CIRCLE OF
FRIENDS OF THE WORLD.



HIS age is pre-eminently the age of the young man, and there is no more encouraging sign for the future welfare of the race than to see its young men sober-minded, resolute, confident and determined either to find a way to success or make one. The young men of the race have been held up to the world and stigmatized as lazy, worthless and lacking in those fundamental qualities that are essential to success in life. It is claimed by some that the youth of the race are without serious purpose, and that they are mere human derelicts, floating about on the ocean of life. While there is some ground for this widespread criticism, yet in countless instances it is far from being deserved.

This is a brief life story of the youngest man whose sketch graces the pages of this book. It would be a compliment to any man, whatever his age or experience may be, to have contributed as much as the subject has contributed to the sum total of human welfare and progress. The subject of this sketch stands for actual achievement in the domain of service and usefulness to his fellowmen, and he is a shining example of worthy and noble endeavor.

HIS BIRTHPLACE.

Dr. R. A. Williams, the worthy subject of this sketch, is a native of Forrest City, Ark., and first saw the light of day September 13, 1879. He was not born on a farm, nor does he point with pride to any great hardships in life. He was not born with a silver spoon in his mouth, but the success that he has achieved in life has been the result of his own sacrifices and labors. He has ever had an ambition to work out his own destiny, and he demands of the world nothing but a chance to do his best for the cause of human progress.

HIS EDUCATION.

That Dr. Williams was a precocious youth is evidenced by the fact that he completed the course in the public school of his native city when he was only twelve years of age. After his graduation from the public school in 1891, he completed the course of the Danville Industrial High School of Danville, Va., in the year of 1893. From the Danville Industrial High School his literary activities were transferred to the higher institutions of learning in



R. A. WILLIAMS, M. D.

his native State. He was a student of the Arkansas Baptist College, Little Rock, Ark., and in the year of 1896 he had the honor of being the first graduate of its academic department. At the age of seventeen his literary education was nearly completed, and he was thus prepared to pursue the study of that grand profession for which he had the highest hopes of success. It is a great compliment to the early determination of the subject that he had formulated and had nearly brought to a conclusion the plans for his future professional life even sooner than the average youth has begun to think of his future. Long before attaining his majority he had decided what his future life work should be.

A SCHOOL TEACHER AT FOURTEEN YEARS.

His career of service and usefulness began very early in life. Early he began to take a serious view of life and its responsibilities, and he governed himself accordingly. He assumed the duties of school teacher at the early age of fourteen years, and pursued this profession in Cross, St. Francis and Mississippi counties of his native State. Just as he subsequently aspired to be in the medical profession, he aspired to be one of the most capable teachers in his State, and succeeded in his worthy ambition to a very creditable degree.

A MERCHANT IN FORREST CITY.

That Dr. Williams has had a versatile experience is demonstrated by the fact that in his varied career he has never passed by an opportunity that would enable him to turn to account an honest penny. He never hated work, but, on the contrary, he embraced every opportunity to rise in life. He was a grocer in his town from 1896 until 1898 and was senior member of the firm of Williams & Brown.

OFF TO MEHARRY MEDICAL COLLEGE.

In the autumn of 1898 the subject matriculated at Meharry Medical College, when he was in his nineteenth year. He pursued the course of study in a regular manner and graduated in the year of 1902. During his senior year in the medical college he won the R. F. Boyd medal for excellence in gynecology. His understanding of the principles of medicine was thorough, and his preparation for the mastery of his profession was generally recognized by his associates.

HANGS OUT HIS SHINGLE IN KNOXVILLE, TENN.

His medical course having been completed, the new fledged disciple of Aesculapius decided to locate in the city of Knoxville, Tenn., for the purpose of practicing his profession. So he hung out his shingle to the breezes of the East Tennessee metropolis in the year 1902. He established a splendid practice in that city, but the yearning for his native State and all of the professional possibilities of the populous black belt in which he was born had their influence with him and induced him to return to his native State to practice his profession. In the year of 1905 he located in Helena, Ark., where he now lives and where he enjoys the reputation of being one of that city's leading physicians.

STANDS HIGH IN THE MEDICAL PROFESSION.

If a man is a first-class physician, the evidence in his favor will be so overwhelming that due credit will be given him. In spite of the unconscious disposition on the part of some critics to speak deprecatingly of the proficiency of many of the members of the race who are engaged in the practice of medicine, it is a fact that nothing but the highest encomiums are heard concerning the professional ability of the subject of this sketch. The people of his community speak in terms of the highest praise of his ability, and the six years of his professional experience in the city of Helena have been one continuous triumph of his skill in the art of healing and relieving the ills of suffering humanity.

A SPLENDID OFFICE PRACTICE.

Owing to the stress of his fraternal duties, the worthy doctor travels considerably, and is not at home to practice his profession as systematically as formerly. His practice is largely confined to his office, and is of a lucrative character. So highly is his medical skill appreciated that many of his patients will suffer the inconvenience of his absence for a week at a time, if necessary, without consulting any other physician. His office practice is very large, and would be a credit to any physician who might make office practice a specialty.

**FOUNDER AND SUPREME PRESIDENT OF THE ROYAL CIRCLE OF
FRIENDS OF THE WORLD.**

This is an age of achievements. In the world of success deeds have ever counted more than words. The most sublime eloquence that can fall from the lips of mortal beings is the eloquence of

deeds done and not words spoken; for it is what we do and not what we say that counts most in the arena of life. In the month of September, 1909, the subject of this sketch founded the fraternity which is known as the Royal Circle of Friends of the World. The first Grand Circle meeting was held in the town of Helena, Ark., September 1, 2, and 3, 1909, and it is hardly probable that any fraternity of its age ever had a more auspicious meeting.

A MODERN AND PROGRESSIVE FRATERNITY.

This splendid fraternity is one of the most modern and one of the most up-to-date organizations soliciting the patronage of the public. It has come before the people of this Southland, demanding recognition, encouragement and support solely on its merits. The founder of this fraternity is an eminently practical and progressive young man, and there is not in his character a single wild and chimerical idea. The order is founded upon the bed-rock of business principles. While its ritualistic work is interesting, attractive and even sublime, yet the fact must not be overlooked that this fraternity is, first of all, a high-class business organization. The founder of this order realized the fact that the primary object of any fraternal organization is the promoting of the moral, physical, intellectual and material welfare of its members. This can be done only by combining correct business principles with proper mental and moral training. There is real merit in this organization, and that is the reason why it has achieved such unparalleled success.

PHENOMENAL GROWTH IN LODGES AND MEMBERSHIP.

Notwithstanding the fact that this fraternity was organized as recently as the month of September, 1909; it has now a membership of more than 9,000, and it is sweeping the country like a mighty invincible army. Its growth has been phenomenal, marvelous, wonderful and surpasses the record of all former organizations of a similar character. The fraternity already has over three hundred (300) lodges, and is organizing new lodges in every direction with remarkable frequency.

ITS ENDOWMENT POLICY.

This fraternity is liberal in its endowment allowance, and compares favorably in total allowance with any other order. It pays to the beneficiary the princely sum of \$300, and it pays this generous allowance just as soon as proper proofs of the member's death can be secured. The extraordinary feature in connection with the

payment of the death policy of this order is its promptness. Often the death payments are made in less than a week after the departure of the deceased. The money is promptly forthcoming as soon as the death of the member is proved, and this payment is made in actual money in the hands of the beneficiary. The difference between the Royal Circle of Friends of the World and many other fraternal organizations is that it has no long and discouraging period of waiting for the payment of the death policy. Most of the other fraternities require from sixty days to six months to make a complete liquidation with the beneficiary, but this society pays its death claims immediately in actual cash in the hands of the beneficiary. The founder of the fraternity or his representative pays to the beneficiary the entire sum of \$300 in money, and does not resort to any kind of note or check. Thus there is every reason why this fraternity should enjoy such universal popularity and why it should have had such a marvelous growth, surpassing in that respect nearly every other fraternity in the history of the race. The time when the bereaved most needs financial assistance and relief is when the pangs of sorrow and grief are most poignant, and it is a calamity to have to wait an indefinite length of time for the benefits that are promised and guaranteed. The promptness with which the founder of this order pays all death claims has been a revelation and source of wonder to the people of his State, and demonstrates the fact that he is a far-sighted thinker, as well as a benefactor to his race.

A SPECIAL POLICY.

This progressive fraternity has not only a death benefit policy, but it also has a special policy, the benefit of which accrues to the members in the course of their natural lives, provided they live for a certain number of years. This special policy makes provision for the future of its members by setting aside a cash endowment of \$100 to the member who continues in good standing with the order for a period of ten consecutive years. This cash allowance is, in many respects, one of the most timely and one of the most beneficent provisions in the history of lodgdom, and is on a parity with many of the features of the modern, up-to-date insurance companies. In the course of ten years the average member will begin to suffer from some of the infirmities of life, and will be in a condition to welcome such a timely beneficence.

SICK AND ACCIDENT BENEFIT ALLOWANCES.

This worthy organization does its full duty in the scheme of benevolence, for it makes every provision for the prompt relief of

its sick and afflicted members. No organization measures up to its highest duty that does not make the principles of charity and benevolence the main articles of its faith. This order looks well to its living members, as well as to its dead, and in this respect it is second to no other fraternity.

FEES.

The fee for joining this organization, including medical examination, is \$2.50, while the fee for endowment benefits is only \$1.00 per quarter. In proportion to the substantial benefits to be derived from membership in this order, the fees are more reasonable than those of any other organization.

DISBURSEMENTS AND SURPLUS.

In the brief period of the fraternity's existence, from the month of September, 1909, until this time, it has paid out to beneficiaries more than \$12,000, and notwithstanding the payment of this unprecedented sum of money, the order has now on hand a surplus of more than \$11,000 in the endowment department. The prospects of this fraternity are materially advanced by the fact that the majority of its members are young men and young women, with a reasonable span of years to come, and for this reason the death payments will be much less than the older organizations for some years to come.

THE ROYAL MESSENGER.

In the city of Helena, Ark., the order maintains an organ of publication called the Royal Messenger, which is published twice a month. The founder of the order is the editor of this popular and welcome little paper, and he has bent all of his energies in his laudable ambition to make the paper a creditable organ. At headquarters, where the official organ is published, the order maintains a printing plant, which produces all literature for the order. The printing plant is conservatively valued at \$1,000.

THE SUPREME PRESIDENT A POPULAR OFFICIAL.

Dr. R. A. Williams is one of the most popular and one of the most beloved officials in lodgedom, and his influence with the members of his craft is marvelous. His members realize the fact that they are fraternally connected with an honest as well as honorable leader, and that their interests will always cheerfully be safeguarded. He has organized a fraternity along the most advanced lines of modern thought and progressiveness, and he is entitled to

every honor that his genius has made possible. He has blazed far away from the beaten paths of other organizations, and has introduced new methods and definite advantages which have had a beneficial effect upon the older organizations. So radical are the changes that he has made in the operations of his fraternity, and so far-reaching are the effects, that all of the latest fraternity founders and leaders are following his example. That the doctor is a deserving young man is demonstrated by the fact that he has the unquali-



DR. R. A. WILLIAMS AND FAMILY

fied endorsement of some of the best men of both races in his State. His record both as citizen and practicing physician is so creditable that there can hardly be found a man that will not gladly testify to his high-class standing and character.

HIS TALENTED AND DEVOTED WIFE.

August 25th, 1903, was a hallowed day in the memory of the subject, for it was on that memorable day that life conferred upon him one of its choicest blessings in the person of his faithful and

devoted wife. In the days of her single blessedness his estimable wife was a Miss Cora E. Morgan, of Memphis, Tenn., daughter of one of the wealthiest planters of Shelby County, Tenn. She is a graduate of LeMoyné Institute, Memphis, Tenn., and for several years she was one of the leading teachers in the schools of Shelby County. That she is a woman of rare domestic virtues is confidently claimed by her devoted husband, who cheerfully admits the fact that his dear wife has been the making of his success. When fortune joined them in the holy bonds of wedlock the sum total of all of his worldly possessions was not worth mentioning. In fact, the purchase of the marriage license nearly drove the doctor into bankruptcy. His wife has practiced economy, has sacrificed and has



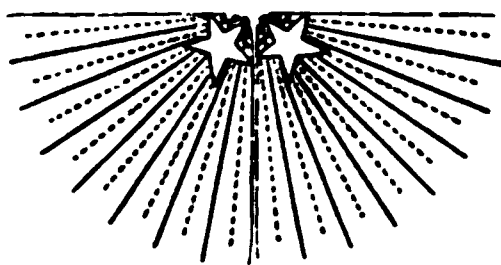
RESIDENCE OF DR. R. A. WILLIAMS

worked in every possible way to lay the foundation for his present well-doing in life, and it is safe to state that no other man has a more willing and more faithful helpmeet than the fortunate doctor. Mrs. Williams is a woman of charming looks and personality, and merits every encomium that her worthy husband can bestow upon her. She helped him to rise in life, and for this reason she is not only his devoted wife, but she is his benefactress as well. She has been a source of inspiration to him in the darkest hour of his professional life, and she has encouraged him to aspire to the highest honors of his profession. The doctor and his estimable wife have one wee cherub, Missie Vera Louise Williams, to love, rear and

maintain. She is a pocket edition of her worthy father, and as bright as two silver dollars fresh from the mint. The doctor has a splendid home in the city of Helena, and he lives in a style befitting the high class professional man that he is.

CONCLUSION.

The secret of the doctor's success is that he stands for real merit in more than one sphere of usefulness. He is not only one of the most capable physicians of the State of Arkansas, but he is also the founder of one of the most progressive fraternities in his State. His administration has been so aggressive and business-like that its principles have been propagated in several of the Southern States, and the fraternity now operates in Arkansas, Mississippi, Alabama, Kentucky and Oklahoma. The doctor is not a professional bubble floating on the ocean of adventure, but he is a wide-awake business man and practicing physician that stands in the front rank of successful achievement.



Rev. J. Jay Scott, B. S., Memphis, Tenn.

PRESIDENT FRATERNAL SAVINGS BANK AND TRUST COMPANY.



ON THE very eve of the fratricidal conflict between the North and the South, there was born June 13, 1860, in the State of Illinois, within a radius of five miles of the city of Alton, the historic spot that was made sacred by the martyrdom of the sainted Lovejoy, the liberator and friend of the benighted slaves, the strong, able and virile leader whose name graces the head of this narrative. It gives no embarrassment or pain to Rev. J. Jay Scott to have published to the world the fact that the snows of more than fifty winters have fallen upon his head, for he is just as active and just as determined to succeed in life as he ever was, and this spirit of determination will stay the onward course of years and cause him to enjoy perpetual juvenescence.

HIS EARLY SCHOOL TRAINING.

The elementary education of the subject was received in the common schools in and around the city of Alton, Ill. He had always desired to make a creditable mark in life, and early realized the importance of having a thorough education. The foundation of his scholastic attainments was laid in the schools of his native State, but his subsequent higher intellectual attainments were acquired in the colleges of the South.

CAME SOUTH IN 1881.

In the year of 1881 the subject first came South to seek an education and the main chance to succeed. It is true that the great North provides every educational advantage for the Negro race, but it does not provide the same opportunities for material growth the Southland does. Nor are the educational institutions of the South very far behind similar institutions of the North in their sphere of preparing the youth of the land for the struggles and conflicts of life. The subject had the ability to see the dual advantage that was to be gained by being educated in the South preparatory for living in the South. So he resolved to attend the institutions of learning in the South, so that he might be prepared for the exigencies of that life which he was to live.

WON A UNIQUE SCHOLARSHIP.

It is a very easy thing to resolve to go to college, but it is not always an easy proposition to put one's resolution in execution. But a very fortunate circumstance materially assisted the subject for four years of his student life in college. While teaching school



REV. J JAY SCOTT

in Jerseyville, Ill., it was the good fortune of the subject to win in a competitive examination a scholarship that was good for four years in any reputable American college. This scholarship was worth \$150 per annum, and furnished the subject his greatest financial inspiration for that period of time.

THE STRANGE STORY OF THE SCHOLARSHIP'S ORIGIN.

There once lived in the State of Illinois a man by the name of George Washington, who had been a slave in one of the slave States, but on moving into the State of Illinois he became a freeman. This former slave had never known the blessings of education, and was himself an illiterate man. By his untiring industry, rigid economy and thrift he had accumulated a great fortune for those early days. After he had amassed this great fortune and while he was in full possession of his faculties, he made his will, in which instrument he bequeathed the sum of \$1,500 for a monument to his former master. The remainder of his fortune was to be held in trust by the State of Illinois as a perpetual fund for the education of colored youth in that State. The original fund amounted to \$16,000, the interest from which was to be used for the purpose as set forth in the will. The State of Illinois appointed five trustees to look after the proper distribution of this fund according to the terms that were laid down in the will, and for the purpose of getting the best results from the sum invested. It was the wisdom of the trustees to found scholarships for ambitious and worthy colored youth, the same to be won by competitive examinations. Having been the successful winner of one of these scholarships, the subject of this sketch chose Fisk University, Nashville, Tenn., as the seat of his future student activities.

A GRADUATE OF FISK UNIVERSITY.

The first institution of higher education that the subject attended in the South was Rust University, Holly Springs, Miss., but he was a student of this college only one year, when he voluntarily severed his student connection with that institution and entered Fisk University. The subject ought to know and does know as much about grand old Fisk University as any other student living, for it was his privilege to study in its classic and hallowed walls for seven long years before receiving his credentials of graduation. It was indeed a proud and happy moment in his life when, after seven years of consecrated study, he received his diploma of graduation with the honored degree of Bachelor of Science in the year of 1892.

IN THE CONGREGATIONAL MINISTRY.

Desiring to prepare for the ministry, he took one year's training in Chicago Theological Seminary, and then returned to his alma

mater, where he completed the English course in theology. He entered the ministry of the Congregational Church and served as pastor therein for five years. For three years he served as chaplain of the A. & M. College at Normal, Ala., and in that capacity he did much to stimulate and strengthen the moral and religious tone of the students of that institution.

A CHAPLAIN IN THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR.

To the same degree that the subject was honored in peace, he was honored in war, for he was appointed Chaplain of the Third Alabama Regiment of Spanish-American Volunteers, with the rank of Captain, and he was the only colored man of high rank that was connected with the regiment.

A BUSINESS MAN IN TENNESSEE.

It was the business foresight of the subject that enabled him to see the possibilities of the undertaking business and to unite with his brother, Mr. H. Wayman Wilkerson, in such a business venture. Having purchased the equipment and good will of the A. N. Johnson Undertaking Establishment, the two brothers united their interests in the undertaking business in the year of 1903. How well the firm has succeeded is evidenced by one of the best equipped and one of the most complete establishments of its character in the South. The undertaking firm has been guided by business principles of the highest order, and has catered to its patrons in such a manner as to elicit universal appreciation and praise. Eight years of continuous success in any business is an honor that is not to be gained without some degree of merit.

HIS ESTIMABLE AND DEVOTED WIFE.

It is a trite old saying that "peace hath her victories not less renowned than war." It is true that the subject may wear the epaulet of a veteran of the Spanish-American war, and that he may have won some great victories in that war, but one of the most creditable victories that he ever won was outside of the field of mortal combat, and it took place on the field of love, instead of the field of Mars. On the first of August, 1898, the gallant captain stormed the citadel of the heart of Miss Kate V. DeJarnette, of Montgomery, Ala., and carried it away in triumph to be his own possession forever. She is a graduate of the State Normal School of Montgomery, Ala., and she is a woman that is fully capable of gracing the home and adorning the domestic life of such an able man as her devoted husband. After her graduation from the State Normal School at Montgomery, Ala., she was for three years an instructor in her alma mater, and she served in a similar

capacity when her husband was stationed as chaplain in the A. & M. College, at Normal, Ala. She is prominent in the social, religious and fraternal life of the city of Memphis, and a useful and serviceable woman in every worthy department of life.

NATIONAL GRAND LECTURER MOSAIC TEMPLARS OF AMERICA.

The worthy and able subject of this sketch is National Grand Lecturer of the Mosaic Templars of America, a great fraternal organization that was founded by colored men, and which is said to have a membership of sixty-five thousand.



MRS. J. J. SCOTT

OTHER OFFICIAL HONORS.

The subject is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Temple Building of the Mosaic Templars of America. He is chairman of the Board of Trustees of Sanderlin Academy, White Station, Tenn. He is Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Old Folks and Orphans' Home Association. He is Secretary-Treasurer of the Scott, Wilkerson & Scott Undertaking Company, a company that is incorporated and engaged in one of the most successful business ventures in the South.

PRESIDENT OF FRATERNAL SAVINGS BANK.

During the eight years of business life of the subject, he has developed into one of the most aggressive and one of the most capable business men of the race. His shrewd business judgment has won for his company the leading rank among the undertaking establishments of the city of Memphis, and has at the same time won him fame as a successful business promoter. Just as it has been in the life of every other successful business man, there has been in his life a climax of successful achievement. This climax was his election and elevation to the presidency of the Fraternal Savings Bank & Trust Company in 1910. The Fraternal Savings Bank is capitalized at \$25,000, and in the short period of its existence its progress has been phenomenal. The bank's management is progressive and in accordance with sound and up-to-date business methods. It has on its directorate many substantial farmers, and their sound, common sense and sterling honesty are a valuable asset to the bank's business resources.

AN ORIGINAL THINKER AND INDEPENDENT MAN.

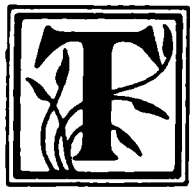
Rev. J. Jay Scott is a man of versatile ability, and has served with credit in many fields of activity and usefulness. Whether as teacher in the school room, minister in the pulpit, chaplain in the army, orator on the platform or business man in the arena of commercial life, he has striven to do his work to the best of his ability. He is an original thinker and a man that is independent in his actions, if he is imbued with the idea that he is right. He is fearless in his advocacy of men or measures, and wears the badge of cringing servility to no man. He has his own mind and thinks his own thoughts. He believes in the possibilities of the Negro race, and he is daily demonstrating his confidence in the future of the race.

CONCLUSION.

The subject has been the maker of his own success. In the darkest hour of business adversity he has never lost hope, for he is an optimist of the thirty-third degree. By his own grit and determination he educated himself, went out into the world and roughed it, and in the end he has come into his well-earned inheritance of financial success and business honor. In the full high noon of life he can calmly look in retrospect from his humble beginning when a young man to his final success as a business man, and rejoice because benign Providence has blessed him in just proportion to his merits. He has labored in this Southland for upward of thirty-one years, and has erected for himself a monument that will be as enduring as time itself.

J. S. Tackett, M.D., Edmondson, Ark.

PRESIDENT OF PEOPLE'S TELEPHONE COMPANY.



HIS modern age is, in the main, a material age, and success is measured largely in material units of achievement. From the viewpoint of the world, a man's success is judged by the quantity of this world's goods that he has accumulated. It matters not that a man has the wisdom of Solomon, he is not considered a successful man unless he has succeeded in accumulating the almighty dollar. While this material standard may not be the best for society, yet it is a condition that the world freely imposes upon itself. Whatever the standard of excellence may be, there can be found countless men of the Negro race that can conform thereto. The worthy subject of this sketch, Dr. J. S. Tackett, is a member of that fortunate number, for he has not only accumulated a considerable portion of the goods of this world, but he has accumulated a creditable amount of the stores of the intellectual world.

HIS NATIVITY.

The subject has a firm claim on the State of Mississippi, for he first beheld the light of day in that State at Pickens, Holmes County, January 18, 1873. He was born on a farm and spent thereon most of the days of his young manhood. His father died when the subject was a lad of tender years, and he was thus thrown on his own resources to struggle until this day.

HIS EDUCATION.

The subject attended the rural schools of Holmes County, Miss., until he was eighteen years old. In addition to the educational advantages that were provided for him by his home county, he attended New Orleans University, New Orleans, La., where he completed his literary training.

HE WORE THE TOGA OF A SCHOOLMASTER.

His career as a schoolmaster began in the summer of 1896 in Madison County, Miss., and continued for several years. He was principal of the Indianola Public School for two terms and taught at irregular intervals in one or more counties of the State while he was a student attending medical college.



DR. J. S. TACKETT

A GRADUATE OF ILLINOIS MEDICAL COLLEGE.

In the year of 1900 the subject matriculated at Flint Medical College, New Orleans, La., where he pursued his first year in the study of medicine. In 1901 he began his student life at Illinois Medical College, Chicago, Ill., from which institution he graduated in September, 1904.

SOUTH TO PRACTICE HIS PROFESSION.

In the autumn of 1904 the subject quit the city of Chicago to return to his native State to practice his profession. His student life at the medical college had been one of privation and great sacrifices, and when he had received his diploma of graduation after four years of hard study, he found his finances in a deplorable condition. His financial resources were not sufficient to carry him back to his native State, and the result was he had to get off the train at Memphis, Tenn., with less than two dollars in his pocket. He had no plans for stopping off in the city of Memphis. It was an involuntary act on his part, for the initial part of the drama was performed by the railroad officials, who could not furnish free transportation to a doctor that did not have two dollars of his own money in the wide, revolving world. But the doctor's noble efforts to prepare himself for service were not without their final reward, for his being stranded in Memphis was one of the most fortunate circumstances that ever befell him, and opened up an opportunity for professional and financial success of which he had never dreamed. By chance in his stranded condition he met some strangers from the town of Edmondson, Ark., and they kindly told him of the possibilities for a physician if he would go there to locate. The new fledged doctor was only too glad to avail himself of that providential opening, and came over with his newly found friends to the town of Edmondson, where he located and began his medical practice. These same kind friends furnished him with the money with which to pay the fee for his medical examination before the State Board of Examiners.

HAS PROSPERED.

Not only has the subject achieved splendid professional success, but he has prospered financially. In this particular respect he has shown himself to be as capable a business man as he is a doctor of medicine. He owns the only drug store in the town, and has a stock of medical goods equal to the demands of the community. He owns three hundred and twenty acres of land, and is one of the

largest colored land owners in the county. Land in Crittenden County is of great value, for it will produce in a good crop year a bale of cotton and over to the acre. He rents out his land to over twenty families, which he furnishes with supplies.

PRESIDENT OF PEOPLE'S TELEPHONE COMPANY.

The doctor has identified himself with all of the business enterprises of his adopted community, and is one of its most aggressive and most progressive business men. He is President of the People's



MRS. J. S. TACKETT

Telephone Company, a local and long distance telephone company that is now operating in the town of Edmondson and vicinity. The installation of this telephone system will give some idea of the progressive spirit of the people of that community. This telephone system is very popular, and there are many applications for service which will render it necessary to enlarge the plant at the earliest

possible time. The doctor is also a stockholder of the Edmondson Home & Improvement Company, which has done wonders for the development of this unique and prosperous Negro settlement. The doctor is a live wire of business activity, and will soon erect on his present business site a substantial two-story brick building for business and office purposes.

HIS ESTIMABLE WIFE.

In less than two years after locating in the State of Arkansas, the doctor returned to his native State and brought back with him to his new home his dear and devoted wife, who was a Miss Florence A. Stigger, of Robinson Springs, Miss., and whom he led to the altar April 29, 1906. She was educated at Tougaloo University, Rust University and Walden University, where she completed one of the literary courses. She is an excellent woman, and has brought to the doctor's assistance her splendid business judgment and womanly inspiration. She has all of the virtues that go with a real, devoted wife, and it is a safe proposition to state that no man is more fortunate than the doctor in the possession of a better half and helpmeet.

CONCLUSION.

Seldom has it been the case that a member of the race has made such phenomenal success as the doctor has made in the short period of less than a decade. From a stranded physician, with less than two dollars as the sum total of all of his worldly possessions, to a man that is rated at thirty thousand dollars, is quite a climb of the financial ladder in seven years. If he has accomplished so much in the first seven years of his career, what may he not be expected to achieve during the next seven years, if life lasts? The doctor is one of the best examples of success in the ranks of the race, and merits every success that his splendid ability and sagacious foresight have won. A cash offer of thirty thousand dollars has been made for his accumulation of seven years, but he has cheerfully declined, and proposes to strive and accomplish even more in the next seven years, if possible.



Perry W. Howard, A.M., LL.B., Jackson, Miss.

LAWYER AND COUNSELLOR.

FOR some reason or other thousands of the foremost men of the nation have taken great pride in calling to the attention of the world the fact that they were born amidst conditions of poverty and want; and they have rejoiced because their infant mouths missed the proverbial golden spoon that, figuratively speaking, plays such a prominent part in the lives of those who are born to the purple; but there is one distinguished man in the State of Mississippi that brings to his rescue no plea of poverty by birth but who, on the contrary, is proud of the fact that the circumstances of his parents were such as enabled them to look well to the interests of their children from every standpoint involving their welfare. This exceptional man is none other than Honorable Perry W. Howard, the able and eminent barrister of Jackson, Miss.

HIS NATIVITY.

He is a member of the caravan whose life journey began in the sprightly little town of Ebenezer, Holmes County, Miss., and the date of his birth was June 14, 1878. His father was a blacksmith in fair circumstances, and there was every incentive for his hammer to play day by day a joyful tattoo on its anvil, for the Howard stock was prolific and it meant better results for his family for him to keep the said hammer busy.

HIS EDUCATION.

The public schools of Holmes County were the theatre of Lawyer Howard's early youthful activities, but in the year of 1891 he went to Alcorn A. & M. College, where he remained for two years. In the autumn of 1893 he transferred his allegiance to Rust University, Holly Springs, Miss., where he completed his literary training by graduating with the degree of Bachelor of Arts in the year of 1899.

WAS A LEADING EDUCATOR.

Before taking up the practice of law Mr. Howard was one of the leading educators of the South. His education received at Rust University made him the intellectual peer of almost any man in the South, and he was well prepared to make a reputation second to none in the teachers' profession. Immediately after his graduation from Rust University he was elected to the presidency of Campbell College of Jackson, Miss., one of the leading colleges of Central Mississippi, and he served at the head of this institution until the conclusion of the school session in the year of 1900. In the same year, while serving as President of Campbell College, it was the pleasure of the trustees of that well-known institution of learning to confer upon the distinguished subject of this sketch the honorary degree of Master of Arts as an humble testimonial to his ability. From the presidency of Campbell College he was elected to fill the chair of mathematics in Alcorn A. & M. College and he served in that capacity for five years, or until the year of 1905. While serving as professor of mathematics in Alcorn University he made a substantial reputation as an able instructor and mathematician.

A GRADUATE OF THE ILLINOIS COLLEGE OF LAW.

While the splendid ability of Mr. Howard made it possible for him to fit in creditably and ably in any position requiring extraordinary intellectual equipment, and especially in the teachers'

profession, yet his natural inclinations were never in the direction of the school room, but in the direction of the legal profession. For years he had built air castles that had as their foundation and material the subtleties of the law, and he gradually made preparation to abandon the profession of teaching for the profession of law.

So, while occupying the chair of mathematics in Alcorn University he diligently applied himself to the study of law. Three months of each year were spent in the study of law at the Illinois College of Law, Chicago, Ill. In the fullness of time he graduated from this law school in the year of 1905 with the degree of LL.B.

A LAWYER AND COUNSELLOR IN HIS NATIVE STATE.

He resigned the chair of mathematics in Alcorn College in the year of 1905 and immediately began the practice of the legal profession in Jackson, Miss. He demonstrated his fitness for the practice of his profession by running the gauntlet of examination by the members of the Supreme Court of Mississippi. Of course, a man of the intellectual attainments of Lawyer Howard could not have failed after such thorough preparation and backed up by such a high class literary education. The profession of law is one of the learned professions, and only a learned man can master its intricacies. It is the oldest of the professions and also the most exalted, and it has safeguarded the rights of mankind since the dawn of the creation of the world. It is the only real scepter of power, and the one to which the most powerful monarch as well as the humblest subject must bow in humble submission.

Lawyer Howard is not one of the oldest attorneys of color practicing at the bar of the State of Mississippi, since his youthful years preclude such a possibility, but he is indeed considered one of the ablest, notwithstanding his youth. He practices in all the courts of the State of Mississippi and in the United States courts as well. He ranks with the best lawyers of the State in degree of success. He is a close reasoner, an unerring analyst, a keen cross-examiner, an effective speaker and a man that is forcible in every department of the law. He has a large and lucrative practice, and altogether his future in the legal profession is as bright as his ability is commanding.

A LEADING POLITICIAN.

The worthy subject of this sketch has always entertained the highest respect for the political rights with which he is clothed by the laws of the land, and he has for years been prominent in the councils of the Republican party in the State of Mississippi.

He is a member of the Republican State Executive Committee, and he has been honored with election as delegate to the National Republican Convention. His voice and pen are ever at the service of the party whenever it is waging a warfare in defense of its sacred principles. He is one of the leading political orators of the State, and an effective man on the hustings in any capacity.

A VERSATILE GENIUS.

In abandoning the profession of teaching for that of law, it was not a fear of spoiling a first-class schoolmaster for an indifferent and struggling lawyer, but it was the case of a master mind in one of the learned professions simply changing its labors from the exacting field of duty on one hand to the fascinating field of love on the other hand, and in such an exchange there was much for him to gain and nothing for him to lose. He was a teacher of the highest qualification and that breadth and depth of mind that enabled him to take such a high rank in the teachers' profession have enabled him to take a rank of even greater magnitude in the legal profession.

A CAPABLE BUSINESS MAN.

He is a business man as well as a lawyer, and he can manipulate to his advantage the business end of a proposition as well as he can elucidate before an untutored jury the basic principles of the law. He is one of the owners of the Jackson Drug Store of Jackson, Miss., one of the well established pharmacies of the city. He and his brothers have a controlling interest in the stock of the American Savings Bank & Trust Company of the city of Jackson. He has an elegant home in the aristocratic section of the colored section of the city of Jackson, and lives in a style befitting a man of his professional success and ability.

HIS ACCOMPLISHED WIFE.

In the year of 1907, Lawyer Howard led to the altar Miss Wilhelmina Lucas, of Macon, Miss. Her mother, who was a Miss America Robinson, was the first female graduate of Fisk University, Nashville, Tennessee, and a member of the original Fisk Jubilee Singers for five years. Mrs. Howard is a graduate of Fisk University, and had much experience in the teachers' profession. She was once a teacher in the literary department of Tuskegee Normal Institute, and at another time she was a teacher in the music department of Alcorn A. & M. College. She is a wife that makes her husband's interest paramount to all other interests. She is loyal to the interests of her talented and successful husband, devoted to the duties and comforts of her home, and still in touch with the muse which keeps music enshrined in the portals of her heart.

AN ESTIMATE OF THE SUBJECT.

The writer could not fail to perceive and appreciate the intellectual gifts of Lawyer Howard, for such would be apparent to the veriest dolt. Both as a lawyer and a citizen he represents the highest type of manhood and moral worth. He has hardly reached his prime in the practice of his profession, and it is hardly out of the bounds of reason to expect him to become one of the greatest lawyers in the history of the commonwealth of Mississippi, a State famous for its production both of great men and celebrated practitioners before the bar of public justice. Lawyer Howard is of comely appearance. He is affable, genial and pleasant, but withal there is beneath the surface the keen, penetrating sight of the peerless lawyer that he is.

It has been the good fortune of but few young lawyers to establish themselves so thoroughly in public confidence as has the able subject of this sketch, in the comparatively few years of his practice in the State of Mississippi. Many lawyers of vastly longer experience have not succeeded in accomplishing one-half as much as he has accomplished in either a professional or material way. That he has had extraordinary success in his profession is demonstrated by his excellent and growing practice, for he is one of the leading lawyers of the bar of Jackson.

Lawyer Howard is peculiarly adapted by temperament for success in the practice of his profession. He has had the literary training; he has had the legal training, and he has undying confidence in his ability to look well after the interests of his client, and confidence under such conditions is nine points in his favor.

The Howard family never likes to play a subordinate part to any one in any venture requiring intelligence of a high order. They must be given leadership or nothing at all. They are all men of the brightest intellects and capable of giving a satisfactory account of themselves in every honorable walk of life.

The worthy subject of this sketch is not only the legal luminary of the Howard family, but he is the legal light of the community, and the whole community is proud of his legal attainments. That he has gained success from a material standpoint is shown by the capital he has invested in business enterprises of the race. The name of Howard is a lodestone to exert its influence not only in the legal affairs of the community, but also in the business affairs of the same. He is both a great lawyer and an able financier, and in both relationships he is an ornament to the race to which he belongs.

A. L. Fleming, Edmondson, Ark.

SECRETARY-BOOKKEEPER EDMONDSON HOME & IMPROVEMENT
COMPANY.



THE foundation of every enterprise that has achieved any degree of success there is some one man that is endowed by nature with a genius for hard and unremitting labor. Any number of enterprising and aggressive business men may combine their material resources for the purpose of promoting any business enterprise, but in the final analysis the burden of the responsibility will inevitably fall on the shoulders of one single individual. Responsibility has proved to be the making of thousands of worthy, successful men, and for this reason is one of the world's greatest blessings. In this sketch there is presented to the reading public the name of a man whose labors to promote the welfare of the race are worthy of undying appreciation. He has been the fifth wheel in a business enterprise of far-reaching beneficence, and has proved invaluable, not only to the interests of the great company whose success he has so greatly promoted, but to the whole Negro population of his community and State.

A NATIVE OF VIRGINIA.

The subject of this sketch, Mr. A. L. Fleming, is a native of the State of Virginia, and was born in Roanoke, February 8, 1866. His sojourn in his native State was of short duration, as he quit the Old Dominion State and moved to the State of Arkansas, October 10, 1870, when he was a mere lad of four years. His father was induced by the glowing reports which had been carried back to the old State of Virginia to venture West with his family to better his condition. So the father moved from Roanoke, Va., to Edmondson, Ark., in the year of 1870, and thus had the honor of being one of the earliest post-bellum settlers to emigrate to the State of Arkansas.

HIS EDUCATION.

The major part of the literary training of the subject was received in the common schools of Crittenden County, Arkansas. He always had a sort of natural aptitude for books and education, and it was a dangerous experiment to leave any books about him if their contents were not to be known. He is more a self-made man than one who was blessed with any unusual educational advantages.

**A. L. FLEMING**

IN PEDAGOGICAL HARNESS.

The subject taught school in his native State from 1887 until 1903, when he abandoned the profession to begin his business career. He was highly esteemed as a capable teacher, and there were, no doubt, many regrets when he elected to pursue a business career.

A GRADUATE OF A BUSINESS COLLEGE.

Many years ago the father of the subject was one of the leading merchants of Edmondson, Ark., but it was the father's experience that the best results can not be achieved in business life without a business education. So it was the wisdom of both father and son that the son should be thoroughly prepared for business by a course of instruction in a first-class business college. With this object in view the subject went to Delaware, Ohio, in the year of 1891 and took a course of instruction in bookkeeping and penmanship in the National Business College, from which he received his diploma of graduation in the same year. For twenty years he has been one of the most capable bookkeepers and accountants in the South, and his splendid knowledge of business and business principles has been invaluable to the company with which he has so long been connected in a business capacity. He is one of the most artistic penmen that the South affords, and his business knowledge is on a parity with his elegant handwriting.

SECRETARY-BOOKKEEPER EDMONDSON HOME & IMPROVEMENT COMPANY.

Since the year of 1903 the subject has been actively connected with the Edmondson Home & Improvement Company as its Secretary and Bookkeeper, and the phenomenal success of the company has been due in a large measure to his excellent business training and splendid judgment, both as to men and measures. Through the efforts of this enterprising company the town of Edmondson has been made a strictly Negro settlement, and the world has been given an opportunity to see and judge the capacity of the race for self-government.

A GENERAL PROMOTER.

In addition to being the master spirit in connection with the development and growth of the town of Edmondson, Ark., the subject is Secretary-Treasurer of the People's Telephone Company of Edmondson. He is a director of the Edmondson Electric Company. He is also a director of the Fraternal Savings Bank & Trust

Company of Memphis, Tennessee. He is interested in oil well investments in Oklahoma.

PROMINENT IN RELIGIOUS AND FRATERNAL WORK.

The subject is one of the most influential laymen in his community. He is a member of the Board of Trustees and the Board of Stewards of Campbell Chapel A. M. E. Church of Edmondson, Ark., and he has served as Superintendent of the Sunday School of the same church since the year of 1896. He is one of the leading members of the Masons, Odd Fellows and other fraternal organizations of his community.

THE FIRST PARTNER OF HIS SORROWS AND JOYS.

Very soon after reaching man's estate, or November 28, 1888, the worthy subject of this sketch was united in marriage to Miss Lizzie T. Waterford, the beloved and estimable daughter of Mr. Thomas and Mrs. Harriet Waterford, of Edmondson, Ark. She was a woman of sterling worth and character, and her dear parents were the first members of the race to buy a home for themselves in that community. This devoted wife was carried to her reward July 30, 1896, and left one son, Mr. Clarence Hillman Fleming, including her husband, to mourn her untimely demise.

BEGAN LIFE ANEW IN 1900.

"Time hath no sorrows that heaven can not heal." This is indeed true of most mortal beings, and an all-wise Providence has made this fortunate condition possible. The subject made his second matrimonial venture February 15, 1900, when he was united in the holy bonds of wedlock to Mrs. Ella Haralson, of Cotton Plant, Ark. She is a woman of admirable qualities, and has brought to her husband much of that inspiration that has had so much to do with his present success. She is not only the Supreme Governess of her own household, but she is the Grand Governess of the Colored Woodmen of Arkansas. She is enterprising and resourceful, and will cheerfully assist her devoted husband to rise to the very zenith of successful achievement. Her bright little daughter, Miss Lenna A. Fleming, is the joy of the home.

A PROMINENT AND USEFUL CITIZEN.

The subject is one of the most prominent and one of the most successful men of his community. His versatile ability makes him the most serviceable in every respect that the community has ever had. He is closely identified with the social, religious and business life of his community, and wields an influence that is second to no other man. He is a man of considerable wealth, as is evidenced by



RESIDENCE OF A. L. FLEMING
EDMONDSON, ARK.

LENNA ANNA FLEMING

the fact that he is the owner of one hundred and twenty acres of the best land in Crittenden County. He has much valuable property at Wynne, Ark. He is a land speculator, and has made fabulous sums off the lands that have been delegated to him to dispose of in the real estate market. He has worked in season and out of season to bring prosperity to his community, and he has merited his every success, prosperity and happiness.



WM. DRISKELL

William Driskell, Atlanta, Ga.

SECRETARY-MANAGER UNION MUTUAL ASSOCIATION.



FROM an humble log cabin to the presidency of the United States is a great jump even for an American white man, whose very color makes the exalted office of the president of the United States of America a possibility, but from an humble log cabin to the executive head of a great insurance company is, in comparison, none the less in magnitude of honor for an American colored man.

BORN IN A LOG CABIN IN ALABAMA.

The worthy subject of this narrative, Mr. William Driskell, lays claim to the honor of having been born in an humble log cabin in the picturesque State of Alabama, and he first shrieked out his infant wail in the piney woods of Dallas County, November 15, 1871.

HAD MEAGRE EDUCATIONAL ADVANTAGES.

His parents were of that unfortunate class whose inheritance had been slavery, with all the disadvantages that were incident thereto, and consequently the youth did not enjoy the educational advantages of this blessed modern day. The meagre circumstances of his parents and the short duration of the school term way back in the interior of Dallas County made his early educational advantages of a very limited character. Having attended the three months' session of the ancient school on the old Henry place for a few terms, the youth quit the old neighborhood and went to Burrell Academy, Selma, Alabama, for one session. This one session at Burrell Academy was the culmination of his school career, and left nothing more for him to do but go out in the busy school of hard, rough work and make his own way by the sweat of his own brow.

ROUGHING IT IN LIFE.

The subject quit school in the year of 1888, and for six years he engaged in all kinds of labor, from working as waiter in a hotel, bootblack in barber shop and porter in grocery store, to the responsible position of digging in a coal mine. It is a long lane that has no turn, and this fact applied especially to Mr. William Driskell, who having for six years sailed his little craft about uncertain seas, through the kindness of a noble friend, Dr. T. W. Walker, finally entered the harbor of success.

A BENEFACTOR TO THE RESCUE.

In the year of 1894 the subject of this sketch connected himself in the insurance business in the city of Birmingham, Alabama, with his kind friend and benefactor, Dr. T. W. Walker. For five years he acted as agent for the company in the city of Birmingham. Of course, Mr. Driskell appreciated greatly the changed status of his life and he strove to perform his duties with fidelity to the interest of his company and his employer. He put into his efforts for the company all of the energy and determination that the fresh, pure air and piney woods of his native county had instilled into his being, and his effective work so commended him to the executive head of the company that he was promoted to the position of traveling representative of the company for the State of Alabama, and served in that capacity for about two years, or until the year of 1901. His duty as traveling representative for the State of Alabama was to inspect and regulate the various agencies of the company throughout the State. In this second official capacity with this company his work was of such a character as to entitle him to a second promotion.

HE WON HIS PROMOTION.

The real secret of success in every department of life is to do one's work well and "make good." This has been the cardinal principle that has actuated Mr. Driskell in everything that he has ever attempted. Therefore, when the Union Mutual Association expanded and extended its operations into the State of Georgia, Mr. William Driskell, of all the other capable and worthy representatives of the company, was chosen to manage the affairs of the company in the Empire State of the South, and he has presided over the destinies of the company in the State of Georgia since 1901.

THE STATUS OF THE COMPANY.

The Union Mutual Association is the pioneer insurance company of the Negro race in the State of Georgia. It blazed the pathway through doubt and prejudice, demonstrated the administrative ability of the race, inspired confidence in its stability by being faithful to every promise, and established its operation upon such a high plane as to merit the confidence and patronage of the best citizens of the State of Georgia. Other companies of like character have come into the field of business, but none of them have ever attained to the vigor and strength of the parent organization. It stands today as solid as the Gibraltan rock in the confidence and esteem of the people of the State of Georgia, and the wise administration and

indefatigable efforts of Mr. William Driskell have been all-powerful in bringing about this condition of affairs.

BRANCH OFFICES OVER THE STATE.

As Manager of the company for the State of Georgia, he has forty branch offices scattered all over the State, and these different departments necessitate the employment of over one hundred and fifty people. The home office of the company is in the city of Atlanta, and maintains a force of thirty-five clerks, bookkeepers, stenographers and the like of both sexes. The company gives remunerative employment to worthy people in all the walks of life, and has on its staff college graduates, ministers of the gospel, as well as representatives from many of the humbler callings of life. It has been a Godsend to the fortunes of many, who had been merely eking out a precarious existence before their employment by this company. Some men whose former weekly stipend was not more than three or four dollars are now making as high as twenty or more dollars for the same time. Of course, the earning power of a man in any kind of business depends upon the man's efficiency and consequently some agents are far more successful than others. But one of the happiest results of the insurance business, outside of the direct purpose for which it was organized, is the great field of high class employment that it opens up to worthy educated young men and women, and such companies are worthy of patronizing if for no other purpose than to provide employment for the ambitious, educated and worthy young people of the race.

THE COMPANY'S HANDSOME BUSINESS.

The Union Mutual Association, through its one hundred and fifty employes, operates all over the State of Georgia, and has an annual income amounting to \$125,000. This is a highly gratifying result, and gives some idea of the hold the company has on the confidence of the people. The management of the company has ever been conservative and business-like. It has sought by legitimate methods to build up an organization whose ideals and strength could command the confidence and support of all classes of citizens. It has not resorted to any wildcat or get-rich-quick schemes to attract money to its coffers, but it has been content to pursue its operations along the line of up-to-date business methods, which are in the final analysis the surest basis for success.

DR. T. W. WALKER THE FOUNDER.

The company has been especially fortunate in its official and managerial heads. Dr. T. W. Walker, the official head of the company, is a man that is universally known and respected, and his name is a household word throughout the whole States of Alabama and Georgia. He has always occupied a firm hold in the affections of the people of both the States of Alabama and Georgia, and he was the one man of the race to organize such an insurance company and build it up in the confidence of the race. He is a minister of the gospel, and has worked in the vineyard of the Master for the greater part of his long and useful life. He has not only been a source of spiritual inspiration and uplift to the race, but he has blazed the way in many of the most successful business enterprises of the race. In the city of Birmingham, where he resides, he is respected and honored as few men of the race have ever been. For more than a generation he has served as pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church, one of the largest and best known churches of the Baptist denomination in the State of Alabama, and in this capacity he has done untold good for the moral, spiritual and material interests of the race.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. T. W. WALKER.

In connection with this humble tribute to the work and worth of Dr. T. W. Walker, it may be timely, at this point in this narrative, to pay this additional tribute to Dr. Walker from his most grateful friend and manager, Mr. William Driskell. The time to bestow appreciation and tribute upon people is in the course of their lifetime, and therefore Dr. Driskell is delighted with the opportunity thus publicly to express his deep gratitude to Dr. T. W. Walker for the doctor's kindness and personal interest in Mr. Driskell, extending over a period of many years. He has not the gift of language fully to express to Dr. Walker the gratitude that he feels from the very depths of his heart. Dr. Walker came to Mr. Driskell's rescue when Mr. Driskell was a very young man, took him into his employment, encouraged him, believed in him, trusted him, honored him and placed in his hands the management of the company's interests for the whole State of Georgia. Mr. Driskell feels that if it had not been for the kindly interest of his friend and benefactor he would most likely have been digging in a coal mine in the State of Alabama until this day.

A BUSINESS MAN OF THE FIRST MAGNITUDE.

That Mr. Driskell has a great capacity for work is attested by the vast number of interests with which he is connected. He is a

veritable omnibus, in which all the enterprises of the race are taking a ride to success. He is a man of rare judgment and executive ability, or he never could have perfected and systematized the business of his great company to the extent that he has. He certainly gave evidence of his executive and administrative ability to Dr. Walker, or he would never have been chosen to fill the responsible position that he has so long filled in the city of Atlanta. His business relationships are extensive. He is President of the Atlanta Independent Publishing Company; he is President of the Gate City Millinery & Dry Goods Company; he is President of the Young Men's Christian Association of Atlanta; he is Vice-President and Treasurer of the Pharrow Construction Company, that erected a forty thousand dollar building for Atlanta Baptist College; he is the Chairman of the Executive Board of the Atlanta State Savings Bank. He is one of the most prominent fraternity leaders of the city of Atlanta, and is identified more or less with all of the fraternities. He is State Endowment Treasurer of the Grand United Order of Odd Fellows for Georgia. He is also Chairman of the Trustee Board of the lodge of Elks.

PROMINENT IN RELIGIOUS WORK.

Mr. Driskell is prominently connected with church work. He is a member of the Deacons and Trustee Boards of Friendship Baptist Church, one of the leading churches of the denomination in the State of Georgia, and he is the Assistant Superintendent of the Sunday School of the same church. Thus it may be seen that Mr. Driskell is a man of large affairs in the city of Atlanta.

HIS WORK IS HIS PLEASURE.

It is a rule of life that those who can and will do must do, and this fact certainly holds good in the career of Mr. William Driskell. He has the ability to do his best and the inclination to do his best, and that is the reason why he occupies such a conspicuous place in the social and business life of the Gate City of the South. He has made work a business as well as a pleasure, and has always tried to do his best. His business activity and thrift have earned their reward and Mr. Driskell has long since been rated among the solid men of his adopted city. His future prospects seem as bright as those of any man in the city of Atlanta. He is in the very prime of life and is surrounded with every incentive to do his best.

HIS ESTIMABLE WIFE.

In the month of January, 1901, Mr. Driskell, as a partner for life, united in marriage with Miss Mabel Wilson, of Atlanta, Ga. She was a student of Spellman Seminary, Atlanta, Georgia, and a teacher in the public schools of Georgia for a short time. His estimable companion is a great worker in the church, and devoted to the welfare of her husband and home.

A TRIBUTE TO HIS MOTHER.

To many people it may be a source of wonder why Mr. Driskell has made such rapid strides up the ladder of success. In addition to the encouragement of a faithful wife, he has the loving inspiration of a dear mother, who is still living, to cheer and bless his life. Though Mr. Driskell should live a thousand years, he can never forget how his dear mother worked, struggled and sacrificed herself on the altar of duty for the welfare of her children. Well does he remember how that loving mother worked and toiled way back in the piney woods of Alabama in order that he might enjoy the privileges and honors that he today enjoys. He wants the world to know his appreciation and love for his mother, and that as long as he has an ounce of strength or a penny in his purse his dear mother shall not have a single want. The writer considers Mr. Driskell one of the highest types of progressive and successful men in the city of Atlanta, and he is delighted to present such a deserving man to the reading public.



J. H. Barabin, A.B., M.D., Marianna, Arkansas.



THE State of Louisiana is not only the land of the sweet-scented magnolia and the succulent sugar cane, but it is the birthplace of many of the ablest and most eminent men in the history of the nation, irrespective of race. Its contribution to the galaxy of the race's greatness has been generous, and the name of Louisiana is indicative of all that is best and greatest in the history of the Negro race. The refrain of the songs that have been composed and dedicated to the memory of the State is a rhapsody of sugar cane, orange blossom and magnolias, and one would judge by the character of the musical compositions in honor of the State that Louisiana is a sort of semi-tropical land of sleepers and dreamers. Such, however, is not the case, for the State has many of the widest awake, most aggressive and most progressive men in the Southland. Of the many worthy, able and successful young men of the race that claim Louisiana as the State of their nativity, the talented, progressive and prosperous subject of this sketch, Dr. J. H. Barabin, is one of the most conspicuous. He was born at Jeannerette on La Tache Bayou, in the Parish of Iberia, La., March 19, 1874.

HIS EARLY STRUGGLE WITH THE THREE R's.

The greater part of his elementary education was received under the instruction of a white ex-Union soldier, who began his career as a schoolmaster among colored children of the parish directly after the conclusion of the Civil War, and this veteran pedagogue is still laboring in the same capacity among the people whom he has served so long and so faithfully. This veteran white teacher, whose humble efforts have been so closely interwoven in the lives of so many of the boys and girls of the race, made no pretensions to being a learned man, for his intellectual storehouse was sadly in need of mental pabulum. He had a mere smattering of the Three R's, and he never ventured beyond his depths even in those branches. Dr. Barabin began his student life under such unfavorable circumstances, and it was marvelous that he accomplished as much as he did.

FOUND HIS WAY TO GILBERT ACADEMY.

In the month of January, 1890, in some mysterious way, the future doctor learned of the existence of Gilbert Academy, located at Baldwin, Louisiana, about twenty miles from his home. Anxious to improve his mind, and determined to gain an education, he bade farewell to his home community, wended his way to his new-found

**DR. J. H. BARABIN**

hope and entered therein to gain the education that he had already coveted. He began his student life at Gilbert Academy in the month of January, 1890, and continued his studies there at irregular intervals until the year of 1895. His irregularity in attendance was due to the fact that he had to maintain himself. He was not blessed with wealthy parents, to whom he might have looked for assistance, but he had to bear the burden and heat of the day to make a way for himself. His progress while a student was so pronounced that he was encouraged to pursue a higher course of training. He gave much evidence of those higher powers of mind for which he became noted in the subsequent days of his student life in the great college from which he gained his diploma. He was a student of Gilbert Academy for five years, and so well did he succeed in the mastery of his studies that when he severed his connection with Gilbert Academy for the purpose of entering Fisk University, he was able to matriculate in the senior preparatory class.

A GRADUATE OF FISK UNIVERSITY.

The subject of this sketch matriculated as a student of Fisk University in the year of 1895. While an ambitious student at Gilbert Academy it was his happy privilege to be thrown in contact with several of the cultured and talented representatives of Fisk University, and so deep and abiding was the influence of those able sons and worthy daughters of Fisk University that he was induced to go to that institution to complete the education that he was determined to possess. His student life at Fisk University was as pleasant as it was profitable, and he had a blanket mortgage on the popularity of the school. He entered heartily into the inner life of the university, and became an exponent of all that was brightest and best in the life of the student body. There was hardly an honor that was not his during the five years of his life as a student at Fisk University. His prowess was felt in the arena of debate in the literary societies; he was a dashing favorite in the social circles of the college, and he was a scintillating star of the first magnitude on the college football team. The doctor's physique has the girth and stamina of a real athlete, and in his tiger-like rushes in a football contest it was not surprising that he carried consternation and woe in his pathway.

The doctor considers the five years that he spent as a student of Fisk University as one of the greatest blessings of his life, and notwithstanding the many other great luminaries of learning that are scattered over this country, affording countless advantages and opportunities for the ambitious youth, yet if the doctor had to live again his college life he would but the more joyfully go back to dear and hallowed old Fisk University. Fisk University has

done an inestimable amount of good for thousands of the race during the many years of labor among the colored people of this country, and the race would not be true to the instincts of appreciation for services rendered in its behalf if it did not hold in deepest reverence and veneration the worthy, consecrated men and women that have willingly sacrificed their lives on the altar of the race's happiness. The doctor used well his golden opportunities while he was a student of Fisk University, and in spite of the handicap of poverty he was able to graduate with honor from this grand old pioneer college of the race June 13, 1900, receiving the time-honored degree of Bachelor of Arts.

DECIDED TO STUDY MEDICINE.

Having been thrown in contact with the inspiring influences of Fisk University for five years, it was but natural that the future disciple of Aesculapius should have imbibed much of the ambition and determination characteristic of so many of the worthy young students of that institution. He had received his degree from one of the leading educational institutions of the land, and he therefore considered his foundation substantial enough on which to erect a strong and durable professional structure. After careful deliberation he decided to take up the study of medicine, inasmuch as he found the study to be high-class in its requirements and great in its possibilities. After deciding to pursue the study of medicine, the next matter to be considered was the college which the ambitious would-be medical student should attend. He determined not to make a mistake in the selection of a college; so he decided to look up the professional rating and standing of some of the leading medical colleges of the city of Chicago, Ill. Not only is the city of Chicago one of the great population centers of the world, but it is one of the greatest medical school centers in the world. Its clinical advantages are first-class, and in connection with its peculiar climate, no other city in the world can boast of greater natural advantages for the study of medicine. Having carefully looked into the merits of the various medical colleges of the city of Chicago, the Illinois Medical College was selected by him as the ideal medical college, both for the highest standard of excellence and the reasonable cost to the medical student in straightened circumstances.

A GRADUATE OF ILLINOIS MEDICAL COLLEGE.

The future doctor matriculated at the Illinois Medical College and remained there as a student for four years, or until his graduation in the year of 1905. In addition to the regular diploma of

graduation, the subject of this sketch received a special diploma, which was granted to him for excellence in scholarship while attending the medical school. This special diploma is conferred only upon those students who have the honor of averaging a percentage of at least 90 in all of the studies of the curriculum during an attendance of four years at the college. Up to the year of 1905 this special diploma had been awarded to but thirteen students in the history of the medical college. The special diploma that was awarded to Dr. Barabin was the first to be granted to a Negro graduate by the college authorities up to that time, and in the year of the doctor's graduation there were only two upon whom the great honor was conferred, a white gentleman and Dr. Barabin.

BACK TO DIXIE TO PRACTICE MEDICINE.

Dr. Barabin graduated from the Illinois Medical College, May 2, 1905, after four long years of unremitting and consecrated effort. He quit the city of Chicago on May 5, 1905, and went South to the capital city of the State of Arkansas, Little Rock, where he passed the examination and secured his license to practice his profession in the State of Arkansas. It had been his desire to locate in the State of Arkansas, so just as soon as he had secured his license to practice he went his way prospecting for his future professional home. Having visited several of the cities, towns and communities of the State, it was the wisdom of his choice to locate in the town of Marianna, Arkansas. He selected the State of Arkansas as the field of his professional labors because of the prevalence of lowland and miasmatic diseases in its borders.

HIS PROFESSIONAL SUCCESS.

The success of Dr. Barabin has been extraordinary, both from a professional and material standpoint, and he has proven himself to be one of the leading physicians of the State. His practice is so extensive that it requires the constant use of four horses and it covers a great deal of the country in which he lives. His reputation as a successful physician is not restricted to his home county, but it extends to the whole State. His admittance to the ranks of the medical practitioners of the State of Arkansas was very auspicious, for at the conclusion of his medical examination in the State the secretary of the Medical Examining Board complimented Dr. Barabin for having passed the most creditable examination among colored applicants, and the second best examination among both colored and white applicants before the Medical Board of Examiners.

A SUCCESSFUL BUSINESS MAN.

The business success of Dr. Barabin has been so pronounced that his experience seems more like a dream than an actual reality. When he landed in the town of Marianna in the summer of 1905 the sum total of his financial possessions was about forty dollars (\$40) of borrowed money which a kind friend had advanced to him to enable him to keep his head above the waves until his little financial craft could safely weather the gale into the harbor of professional success. Note the remarkable change in the financial status of the doctor in the short period that has elapsed since the year 1905. He now pays taxes on \$20,000 worth of property in the form of real estate. He is a director of the Mound Bayou Oil Manufacturing Company. He is one of the leading promoters of the Colored Progressive Land & Improvement Company. He is the owner of fourteen lots in the town of Marianna, eight of which are improved property. He owns 283 acres of rich farming land, on which there are five houses. The remarkable feature about the possessions of Dr. Barabin is that he does not owe a man a single penny for any property that is in his possession.

PROFESSIONAL HONORS.

Many honors have been conferred upon Dr. Barabin by his grateful and appreciative fellow citizens since the beginning of his professional career in the State of Arkansas. He is President of the Board of Directors of the Provident Hospital and Nurse Training School of Arkansas. For three years in succession he has been honored with election to the presidency of the Arkansas Association of Negro Physicians, Surgeons, Dentists and Pharmacists. When it is considered that over 90 per cent. of the medical practitioners of the State of Arkansas are graduates of Meharry Medical College, and that the worthy President is an alumnus of a different college altogether, the high honor that has been conferred upon him becomes the more apparent.

Moreover, the election of Dr. Barabin for three years in succession is unprecedented in the annals of the society during its professional existence of over eighteen years. He is an ideal man for the position, or else it would not have been so eagerly bestowed upon him for so many terms in succession. So consuming has been the desire on the part of the great majority of the members of the association to retain the subject of this sketch in the position which he has so signally honored that there has been no candidate to run for the office in opposition to Dr. Barabin.

HIS DEVOTED AND TALENTED WIFE.

On the 28th of December, in the year of 1905, the distinguished subject of this sketch had his first stroke of real luck when he succeeded in prevailing upon Miss L. M. Benson, of Kowaliga, Ala., to forsake the beautiful, natural scenery of her native State of Alabama and come to the State of Arkansas to share her happiness and her responsibilities with him in his new home. Mrs. Barabin is an accomplished musician, and has but few equals in her profession. She is of a musical turn of mind, and has studied her art in some of the leading conservatories of the country. She studied music at Tuskegee, Oberlin Conservatory of Music, and the New England Conservatory of Music. Her literary education was received mainly at Tuskegee Normal Institute and Fisk University. The doctor's enthusiasm and loyalty to Fisk University are due not only to the splendid education that he received under the fostering care of his alma mater, but also to the fact that he met his dear wife and companion at the same old institution of learning. His loving wife braved the dangers of a malarial climate in the State of Arkansas soon after the doctor's location in the State, and whatever of success that he has achieved in his profession has been due to her willing co-operation and encouragement. She is an excellent woman, and has proved herself to be a woman that is not only prepared to do her part in the affairs of life, but willing to do what she can for the uplift and betterment of others. The home of Dr. and Mrs. Barabin has been blessed with two children, a boy and a girl.

ONCE A SCHOOLMASTER.

The doctor essayed the role of a pedagogue at different times in his student career. During his vacations he taught school at Lake Charles, La., in the year of 1891, and at Tiptonville, Tenn., in the years of 1896-7-8. There can not be much speculation as to the ability of the doctor as a disciplinarian, for a pedagogue of his mammoth physique and leonine voice is calculated to command more than passing notice. The proportions of the popular doctor resemble those of the representatives of the big trust magnates, and it is possible that nature has been preparing him in gigantic size so that he may wear with becoming grace the honors of the men into whose class he has been so slowly yet surely drifting.

ONE OF THE MOST POPULAR MEN IN HIS STATE.

Of the many splendid and talented men whom the writer has met in the course of the past decade, he does not recollect a single

one who has greater elements of personal popularity than the worthy and able subject of this sketch. He is the apostle of sunshine and proper living. He believes in the cheery smile and the hearty laugh. It is no exaggeration to state that Dr. J. Barabin is one of the most popular men that ever lived in the State of Arkansas. He is a man to whom the poorest and the humblest may come with the assurance of receiving every courtesy that can be conferred upon them. The name of Barabin seems to have cast a spell over the good people of the State of Arkansas, for they seem to vie with each other in conferring upon him every possible consideration and honor. The doctor has a remarkable faculty for recollecting names and faces. He is a gentleman so utterly without pretension that the humblest are received on terms of perfect familiarity. He is a man to whom it is not necessary for a poor man to be introduced every time the poor man may come in contact with him. The doctor has earned his high standing in social, professional and financial circles. His success has been phenomenal along all worthy lines and will be even more pronounced with the coming years.



Rev. D. J. Mitchell, Franklin, Tenn.

**CHIEF GRAND MENTOR KNIGHTS AND DAUGHTERS OF TABOR,
JURISDICTION OF TENNESSEE.**



THE success of any institution depends primarily upon the intelligence and worthiness of the men that are honored with its leadership. The very presence of some men as representatives and leaders in any cause is a guarantee that the cause they espouse or the institution they recommend is deserving of the respect, esteem and confidence of the people. A clean man in character will give a clean administration, and it is just as impossible to divorce the actions of a man from his real character as it is to separate object and shadow. This is the life story of a clean man, a righteous man, a man whose way is wisdom and his pathway peace.

BORN IN THE OLD VOLUNTEER STATE.

The honored and worthy minister who has, for such a long time, held the fortune of a great and growing fraternity in his official hands, is a native of the old Volunteer State, and first beheld the orb of day in the thriving little town of Columbia. He is in every respect a representative Tennessean, and a man whom the people of his native State are proud to enroll in the ranks of the State's native sons.

HIS EDUCATION.

The early educational training of the subject was received in the public schools of Maury County, Tenn. His advantages were poor, and he had to attend school in a very irregular and very unsatisfactory manner. Even when a boy the subject had an ambition to learn and to be something creditable and worthy in life, and he had the grit to persevere until his ambition was realized.

A STUDENT OF WALDEN UNIVERSITY.

His life was spent on a farm until he had nearly attained to his majority, when by dint of self-denial and perseverance alone he was able to enter Walden University, Nashville, Tenn., as a student. He remained a student of this worthy institution of learning for four years, pursuing a literary and theological course. This opportunity was the greatest fortune of his life, because it prepared him to serve more intelligently the religious welfare of his people. He graduated from the Braden Bible Training School and began his life work in the ministry of the Methodist Episcopal Church.



REV. D. J. MITCHELL.

IN THE SERVICE OF THE GOVERNMENT.

The subject has always led an active business life. For thirteen years he was a faithful employe in the United States mail service in Franklin, Tenn., and could have remained indefinitely in the service if he had elected to do so, and if his new responsibilities could have permitted it.

CHIEF GRAND MENTOR IN 1897.

Since the year of 1897 he has served as Chief Grand Mentor of the Knights and Daughters of Tabor of the State of Tennessee, and his administration of the affairs of his exalted office has been so acceptable to the rank and file of the order that he has been honored with re-election each year until this time. This repeated endorsement is a great honor in any organization, and it is a substantial tribute to the character and ability of the man.

RECOMMENDED THE ENDOWMENT DEPARTMENT.

When he was elevated to the leadership of the Knights and Daughters of Tabor, the order had no endowment department whatsoever. It was blindly going on in the same old way, looking after the sick and burying the dead. Within three years after assuming his duties at the head of this organization he had inaugurated the endowment department, which has grown to be one of the bulwarks of every first-class fraternity. Too much stress can not be put upon the benefits of the endowment department to any fraternity. It is not only a blessing to the dead, but it is a consolation and a protection to the living. It is a sort of life insurance that makes for the comfort of those whom death has left behind and who, without this beneficent measure, would be thrown out on the cold charity of the world. It is a living endorsement of the principle that a fraternity should care for the living as well as weep over the dead.

PROGRESS OF THE ORDER.

Under the wise leadership of Rev. D. J. Mitchell, the order has made a substantial, yes, a marvelous growth along all worthy lines. The death benefit allowance has been increased from \$50 to \$150, and the finances of the order are in such excellent condition that there will be quite a generous addition to the death allowance in a short time. The order has gained in membership, financial resources, wise policies and business methods, and holds its own with the best orders in the State.

CLEAN AS A HOUND'S TOOTH.

Too much credit can not be given to the matchless leadership of the subject, who has so skillfully guided the old craft over the bil-

lowy sea of experience to its haven of peace and prosperity. He is a patient, honest, God-fearing man, and entertains the most exalted conceptions of right and duty. He is a man whose character is as clean as a hound's tooth, and whose ability as a leader has been tried in the crucible of more than fourteen years' service. He is an honest, upright citizen, and worthy of every honor that can be bestowed upon him.

HIS DEVOTED WIFE.

In the balmy month of May, in the year of 1900, the subject was united in marriage to Miss Annie G. Young, of Franklin, Tenn. His estimable wife was educated at Walden University, Nashville, Tenn., and was an honored teacher in the common schools of Tennessee for several years. She is an active, enterprising woman and an indispensable factor in her husband's success. She is high in the councils of the order of which her husband is the leading spirit. She is High Priestess of one of the tabernacles of the State of Tennessee, and she is in every essential respect an energetic, worthy woman.

The subject of this sketch has succeeded well in the material walks of life. He is the owner of one of the most attractive homes in the town of Franklin, Tenn. He has proved himself to be a wise and progressive leader, and for this reason there can be no doubt as to the successful character of the work that still needs to be done in the interest of the order.



RESIDENCE OF REV. D. J. MITCHELL, FRANKLIN, TENN.

Rev. J. C. Martin, D.D., Memphis, Tenn.

PRESIDING ELDER C. M. E. CHURCH.



THIS is the good fortune of some men to succeed in everything that they undertake. Nature seems to have given them a scope of vision and a mental horizon greater by far than she has given to the generality of men, and this fact, no doubt, accounts for their uniform success. After all, the elements of success must lie in the man's character. Real success springs from within the individual, and not from external sources; it is an effect resulting from a cause, a monument that must be built by the individual himself. The life story herein narrated is the story of a successful man, and one who is proud to be identified with the Negro race. It is the story of a man whose independent circumstances are not the result of a patrimony or of any other external cause, but they are the result of his own strong mind, energy of action and well known thrift.

A NATIVE OF TENNESSEE.

The reverend subject of this sketch is an honored member of that host of successful men that first saw the light of day on the farm. He is a native of the State of Tennessee, and was born near Trenton, Gibson County, February 8, 1865. His lamented father was a successful farmer, and the subject's life was spent in general touch with the old homestead until he had attained to his majority.

HIS LITERARY TRAINING.

The elementary training of the subject was received in the common schools of Gibson County, Tenn. After having completed the course of instruction in the Trenton Graded School, he took a course at Roger Williams University, Nashville, Tenn.

A SCHOOLMASTER IN TENNESSEE.

The men that are wisest in the affairs of the world, and also the best judges of human character, are generally those who have had experience in the teachers' profession. If the subject is well versed in the affairs of the world, his experience in the school room has played its part. It was his good fortune to serve the interest of his race for several years in the teachers' profession. In the course of his experience as a schoolmaster he was principal of the Martin Colored Graded School for four years, and his success



REV. J C MARTIN, D. D.

in the teachers' profession was quite as pronounced as his success is in the gospel ministry.

A MINISTER OF THE GOSPEL.

The subject entered the ministry of the C. M. E. Church in the month of December, 1890. He began at the very foot of the ministerial ladder and by slow and sure gradations he has worked his way to leadership in the councils of his church. For over a score of years he has labored in the gospel ministry, and has succeeded on his merits in winning a recognition that is enjoyed by very few of his ministerial colleagues. He has served some of the leading churches of his connection, and he is one of the few ministers of his branch of the church that has been permitted in every instance to remain the full limit of time prescribed by the discipline of the Episcopal body.

HIS LEADING PASTORATES.

That the subject of this sketch was imbued with the ambition to go to the top of his calling, if possible, is evidenced by his rapid rise in his church. In the brief period of two years after his entrance to the ministry he was promoted from a minister in charge of a mission to the pastorate of Miles Memorial Chapel, Washington, D. C., and he served in the capital of the nation from 1892 to 1896.

In the year of 1896 he was transferred to the South Carolina Conference and stationed at Sidney Park Church, Columbia, S. C., one of the most important charges in the connection. He served as pastor of Sidney Park Church from 1896 to 1901. In the year of 1901 he was transferred to the West Tennessee Conference and stationed at Collins Chapel C. M. E. Church, Memphis, Tennessee, where he remained from 1901 to 1905. The records of his church will show that he has served at least four years in every pastorate since he became prominent in the ministry. This record is almost without a parallel in the history of his church, and gives some faint conception of his unusual ability as a minister and his extraordinary capacity for conservative and wise leadership.

A PRESIDING ELDER SINCE 1905.

Having served acceptably three of the largest pastorates of his connection, covering a period of thirteen years, the worthy subject was appointed Presiding Elder of the South Memphis District in the year of 1905, and he has served in this capacity up to this time. As a Presiding Elder he has been an unqualified success.

He believes in peace in God's tabernacles; his life is a synonym for peace. As a general pacificator he has few superiors in any of the walks of life.

OFFICIAL HONORS IN THE MINISTRY.

Many honors have been conferred upon the subject by the appreciative members of his connection. In the year of 1901 he was a delegate to the Ecumenical Conference that was held in London, England. This was probably one of the greatest religious assemblies of modern times, and was attended by representatives from all over the Christian world. As there were only nine delegates that represented his church from the United States, the magnitude of the honor that was conferred upon him will be apparent to all. In the year of 1903 the degree of Doctor of Divinity was conferred upon him by Lane College, Jackson, Tenn.

AN ABLE BUSINESS MAN.

It is generally admitted by all that the subject is one of the leading divines in his branch of the Christian church, and that in many respects his record in the gospel ministry is as creditable as it is unique. He is a man of versatile ability, and can handle the business end of a proposition as intelligently and as creditably as a man that had never studied the principles of anything else. He is not only a leading divine, but he is also one of the premier business men of the race. As a successful financier he has made a reputation that is second to none. Many members of the cloth are noted for their ability to build churches and get churches out of debt, but they have never been able to build up their own fortunes or own a roof over their own heads. In other words, some of the ablest financial workers in the domain of the church are abject failures in looking after their own financial welfare. The subject has been more prudent and more sensible, and has looked out for the proverbial rainy day. He knows that sooner or later even a minister of the gospel loses his effectiveness in the pulpit, and then he must take a rear seat and let better men occupy the center of the stage. He has looked after the success of his religious work, and has done his whole duty to the financial welfare of his church, but he has not neglected his own financial needs. He is a "business preacher," and stands as high in the world of business and finance as he does in the councils of the church.

PRESIDENT OF SOLVENT SAVINGS BANK.

In the month of January, 1911, the subject was elevated to the presidency of the Solvent Savings Bank & Trust Company, of

Memphis, Tennessee. This crowning business honor was a high tribute to his business ability, financial strength and sterling character. It is the unanimous opinion of the stockholders and friends of the bank that no mistake was made in electing the subject to preside over the business deliberations of this well-known banking institution of the race. He has succeeded in infusing his personality in the affairs of the bank, and there has become evident the practice of more liberal business policies and other improvements in harmony with sound and up-to-date business principles. He fits his position gracefully, and the affairs of the bank have already felt the quickening of his magical touch.

A LARGE PROPERTY HOLDER.

The subject is a man in independent circumstances, and is rated to be one of the wealthiest colored men of the city of Memphis. He has large property interests in various sections of the country. He has valuable property within three blocks of the Congressional Library in the city of Washington, D. C. He is the owner of ten pieces of improved property in the city of Memphis, and several lots alone. He is the owner of sixty acres of farm land in Gibson County, Tennessee, and one hundred and sixty acres of fertile farm land in Crittenden County, Arkansas.

HIS PERSONALITY.

Rev. J. C. Martin is eminently a man of the people. His nature has in it much of the milk of human kindness, and it is more than probable that he never willingly did a human being a particle of injury. While he does not throw his money to the birds, he is a man that is generous in his impulses and liberal in his generosity to worthy causes. He makes no show of his charitable nature, but there are many grateful hearts that would be only too glad to testify to his kindness and liberality if it were necessary. He is a man that is big in body, mind and heart, and that has every essential element of leadership for his people in the general walks of life.

H. W. Doxey, Holly Springs, Miss.

MERCHANT.



IFE is a harp of a thousand strings, each one of which is responsive to the magic touch of the will. Whatever in reason a man wills to be or to accomplish is in the range of possibility, for the invincible will is the seat of all dominion and power. This narrative is the life story of a man whose chief asset has ever been his indomitable will. He never



H. W. DOXEY

had the opportunities in life with which thousands of others were blessed, but he has used nature's endowment to the best of his ability, and has made a name and fame for himself which are the brightest treasure of his life.

HIS NATIVITY.

Mr. H. W. Doxey is a native of the State of Mississippi, and was born on a farm near New Albany in the year of 1857. He

lived on a farm until he was twenty-four years old, during which time he not only worked as a hired man on the farm, but cultivated the land on his own responsibility, and proved himself to be a farmer that was second to none in his community. It is probable that he might have pursued farming indefinitely if he had not perceived that there were better financial rewards in other kinds of employment.

EXCHANGES PLOW FOR PAINT BRUSH.

In the year of 1881 the subject began his successful career as a painter. He carefully studied the painter's art and strove to make himself master of his new trade. His diligence was in course of time rewarded, and he became one of the leading painters of his day. He engaged in the business of painting until 1895, when he quit the business for mercantile life.

A MERCHANT IN HOLLY SPRINGS.

Whenever the subject has changed his business it has been for the purpose of bettering his financial condition, and in each case the success that was gained justified the wisdom of the change. In the year of 1895 he began in the mercantile business in Holly Springs, Miss., with a capital of \$300. He was utterly without experience, for that was his first venture in commercial life. However, he persevered in his business and bought his business wisdom just as all inexperienced merchants necessarily must do. He had correct ideas of what he should do, and for this reason he was reasonably successful from the beginning. Each successive year has added to his original capital, until his former capital has been multiplied many fold. He is one of the leading colored merchants of the State of Mississippi, and stands high in the rating of the commercial world. Sound common sense and perfect business integrity have been the basis of his success. His credit has never been put in jeopardy, for he has been content to let his business build up itself without risking outside means. He has shown remarkable aptitude for business life, and has succeeded far more than many men with special business training.

AN ACTIVE BUSINESS MAN.

The subject is an enterprising, energetic, public-spirited business man. His career as a business man has been more or less remarkable, for he has made better use of his business opportunities than most men, and can give a clearer account of the manner in which his moneys have been disposed. He is financially interested in

some of the principal investments of the town of Holly Springs, Miss. He is a stockholder of the Merchants & Farmers' Bank of Holly Springs, the Creek Cotton Gin Company of Holly Springs, and the North Mississippi Fair Association.

TREASURER J. A. Q. WILLIAMS LAND COMPANY.

The subject is Treasurer of the J. A. Q. Williams Land Company of Memphis, Tenn., one of the greatest land companies promoted by the brains and capital of the race. This company owns twenty-one acres of investment land right in the heart of the manufacturing district of South Memphis. It is in close proximity to nearly forty manufactories, and is thus a valuable site for manufacturing purposes or for the use of tenants that may be employed in the manufactories. This large tract of land has been divided into 350 lots, to be sold to members of the race and on terms that suit the purchaser.

OWNS MUCH REAL ESTATE.

In addition to his home residence in Holly Springs, Miss., the subject owns five other pieces of property in the same city. He owns four pieces of improved property in the city of Memphis, Tenn.; also two pieces of property in Jackson, Miss.

OFFICIAL HONORS.

The subject is Treasurer of the North Mississippi Missionary Conference. He is Treasurer of the Fraternal Hall Association of Holly Springs, Miss. He is Chairman of the Asbury Church Building Committee. He has been one of the trustees of Asbury Chapel for many years, and is generally regarded as a consistent and responsible church worker.

A SELF-MADE MAN.

When the educational advantages of the subject are considered, not a citizen of Holly Springs is entitled to more credit for services rendered and success achieved than Mr. H. W. Doxey. He had no educational advantages worth referring to, for he had the privilege of attending school for only six months in his whole life. He is a self-made man and the architect of his own fortune. Early in life he was thrown upon his own resources and had to make a way not only for himself, but he had to assume the responsibility of caring for a large family of brothers and sisters. In his struggles to rear and educate his brothers and sisters, he was compelled to

neglect his own education, but his loss in opportunity has been largely compensated by nature's stimulating his native powers and greatly improving his common sense and judgment.

HIS DEAR WIFE.

In the year of 1884 the subject was united in the holy bonds of wedlock to Miss Ellen Simpson, of New Albany, Miss. She is one of the best women that ever trod the walks of man. She is quiet, earnest, hard-working and devoted to the welfare of her children, husband and home. She is one of the pillars of her church and a pillar to society in general.

THEIR TALENTED DAUGHTER.

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Doxey, Miss Nathalie Doxey, is a talented young woman, and enjoys unbounded popularity among her acquaintances and friends. She lacked just one year of completing the classical course in Rust University. She is a talented musician, and has had control of the music department of Rust University since 1909. Her musical education was received at Rust University, the College of Music, Albany, New York, and Oberlin Conservatory, Oberlin, O. She is a versatile young woman, and she is as accomplished in domestic economy as she is in the "divine art," of which she is such an able exponent. She is a high-class seamstress and skillful in all kinds of art work.

DOXEY & WALKER.

The subject is part owner of the mercantile establishment of Doxey & Walker, Holly Springs, Miss., and his long experience and splendid business judgment are invaluable to his partner in the management of the firm's business.

ADDENDA.

Mr. Doxey has the faculty of making and keeping his friends. He is kind, courteous, public-spirited and ambitious to go to the top. He is one of the most popular citizens of Holly Springs, Miss., and a person that has done his best for the community of Holly Springs and the institutions thereof. He has played well his part in the game of life, and what he has failed to do has been an error of the head and not of the heart.

H. C. Ellison, Memphis, Tenn.

CONTRACTOR AND BUILDER.



WHEN the famous English architect, Sir Christopher Wren, was asked concerning the erection of his monument, he reminded his questioner to look around and behold his monument in the grand and stately buildings which the incomparable genius of the architect had made possible. In like manner and with no less degree of pride may the subject of this sketch look about him and behold the many substantial and even magnificent buildings that are a monument to his ability as a master builder and contractor.

A NATIVE OF GEORGIA.

Mr. H. C. Ellison, who is one of the leading building contractors of the South, is a native of the State of Georgia, and was born in Cedar Town, September 11, 1871. In many respects the subject is a fortunate man as to his nativity, for the State of Georgia is the banner State of the South in more respects than one. It may be stated on the best of authority that the State of Georgia produces not only the greatest peach crop and the greatest watermelon crop, but it also produces a substantial crop of able, progressive and wealthy representatives of the Negro race.

MAINLY A SELF-MADE MAN.

The subject of this sketch was educated in the public schools of his native State. From the standpoint of education he is mainly a self-made man. The only college that he ever attended was the college of hard work, and in that most ancient and most honorable institution he has received both his bachelor and master's degrees. He has, however, striven to make up his intellectual deficiencies by self-application and correspondence instruction, and it must be admitted that he seems to be as well prepared for life as the self-satisfied man with collegiate training.

SERVED AN APPRENTICESHIP.

While attending school he first began to work at the carpenter's trade with his brother-in-law, Mr. J. M. Wilson. His relative was a very capable artisan, and gave the subject much information and practical training in carpentry from the time the subject was fourteen years old until he was eighteen. At the age of eighteen years he began to serve a regular apprenticeship under Mr. Samuel



H. C. ELLISON'S EXHIBIT

1. Metropolitan Baptist Church, Memphis, Tenn
2. Booker T. Washington Hall—M. I. College, Holly Springs, Miss
3. Mt. Olive C. M. E. Church, Memphis, Tenn.

Clary, of Cedar Town, Ga., and by the time that the subject had attained to his majority his earning power as a capable mechanic was as great as any young man in the State of Georgia.

WESTWARD TO ARKANSAS IN 1894.

In the year of 1894 the subject quit his home in Georgia and went to the State of Arkansas to follow his trade. He labored with the greatest success in that State for two years, when he moved to the city of Memphis, Tenn., in 1896, where he has since resided.

A LEADING CONTRACTOR.

No other perfect stranger ever came to the city of Memphis and so quickly established himself in public favor and confidence in his business as did the subject. Having become known as a most capable foreman with some of the leading contractors of the city of Memphis, it was an easy matter for him soon to branch out on his own responsibility as a master contractor and builder. He has plied his trade in the city of Memphis and surrounding country since the year of 1896, and it is reasonable to state that there is today not a contractor in the city of Memphis that stands for more in the way of success, reliability and capability than he. Slowly but surely he has built up a patronage among the best people that is second to none. He is a man that is perfectly responsible for any promise that he makes, and his word is a synonym for honest work and fair treatment to all.

CAN HANDLE ANY CONTRACT.

Some of the most imposing structures in the city of Memphis are monuments to his genius as a master builder. His success has been so great and his financial resources have been so improved that he is able to handle a contract involving nearly any sum of money. He erected the four-story Masonic Temple Building in the city of Memphis and the mammoth forty thousand dollar building for Mississippi Industrial College, Holly Springs, Miss. The subject is inferior to no other man in his general knowledge of the contracting business, and he is not only a most capable artisan, but he is one of the most reliable and one of the most gentlemanly contractors in the ranks of the Negro race.

HAS PROSPERED IN HIS BUSINESS.

The subject has proved himself to be not only a successful contractor, but a first-class business man and financier. Next to having gilt-edged credit among the wealthiest people of his com-



H. C. ELLISON'S EXHIBIT

1. Masonic Temple Building, Memphis, Tenn.
2. Dr. A. G. Bynas' Residence.
3. H. C. Ellison's Residence.



munity, he is quite well off in the goods of this world. He has one of the most substantial homes in the city of Memphis, and in addition thereto he is the owner of twelve pieces of unimproved property in Memphis. He sticks close to his business, and is more ambitious to make a name and fame in it than in anything else. He is easily one of the most prosperous of the contractors in the South, and is eminently deserving of his success. He has prospered in his business because he is capable, honest and deserving, and that is the secret of his splendid success.

UP THE HILL OF LIFE TOGETHER.

On October 7, 1897, Mr. H. C. Ellison went back to the State of Georgia and brought with him to the Bluff City of Tennessee his dear and devoted wife. She was a Miss Alice Hill, of Rome, Ga., and was an acquaintance of his childhood days. She is a past mistress in the science of domestic economy, and is a worthy and energetic worker in everything of interest to her. Her activities in social and Christian life are faithful and inspiring, and she wields a great power for good in both capacities.

ADDENDA.

The subject is prominent in church and Sunday School work, having served for several years as Superintendent of Providence Chapel A. M. E. Sunday School. He is in touch with the fraternity spirit because of his affiliation with the Masons and Odd Fellows. He is a clean man, and is without the least doubt one of the best men of the race.



N. B. Houser, M.D., Helena, Ark.

PROPRIETOR BLACK DIAMOND DRUG STORE.



O THOSE who have even a superficial knowledge of the language of the ancient Romans, the Latin expression, "nota bene," means "note well," and when abbreviated it gives rise to the well-known initials N. B. While the real meaning of this phrase is given, it is none the less significant when used in connection with the name of the worthy and honored subject of this sketch, Dr. N. B. Houser, for his splendid success and worthy achievements in life have demonstrated beyond peradventure of doubt that he has "noted well" the serious aspect of that existence which we call life, and that he has made the most serious preparation to make it the best, the happiest, and the noblest existence for mortal beings. The doctor has not slept on his opportunities, for he has worked incessantly and wrested from life some of its most creditable and most enduring rewards.

HIS BIRTHPLACE.

Dr. N. B. Houser is a native of the State of North Carolina, and was born near Gastonia, Gaston County, February 14, 1869. He seems to have inherited the progressive qualities and determined spirit of the people of the Old North State, and to have brought them in their entirety to his Western home.

HIS ENERGETIC AND PROGRESSIVE FATHER.

If there is any virtue in the power of heredity, the doctor is undoubtedly a very fortunate man, for his worthy father was one of the most enterprising and one of the most successful business men of the State of North Carolina, and stood second to none in the mastery of the trade which he followed so long and so successfully. For years the father was the most prominent brick manufacturer and brick contractor in the city of Charlotte, N. C. He was the owner of two brick yards, and thus had practically a monopoly for the manufacture of bricks in his city. As a contractor he erected many of the most substantial buildings in the city of Charlotte, and in other cities of the State. Among the many monuments to his skill as a contracting builder is the magnificent Boys' Dormitory of Biddle University, Charlotte, N. C. The father came Westward with his son, and is now actively connected with the management of the famous Black Diamond Drug Company of Helena, Ark. He is one of the progressive, substantial citizens of



N. B. HOUSER, M. D.

Helena, and has brought to that hustling little municipality much of his old North Carolina business zeal and aggressiveness. He is easily one of the most striking looking citizens of his adopted city, and one of the finest specimens of physical manhood that the great State of North Carolina ever permitted to depart from its territory. He is a man of superior natural ability, and a gentleman of which the race ought to be proud.

A GRADUATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HARD WORK.

The subject of this sketch is not only a graduate of a reputable institution of learning, but he is also an alumnus of the University of Hard Work. During the whole period of his life he has known nothing but hard and unremitting work. Work is the gospel of his life, and with him it is the open sesame to all that is best and noblest in life. From the time when he was nine years of age until he had attained to his fourteenth birthday, the subject of this sketch worked with his father on the farm. Early in life he served an apprenticeship in the brick making trade, and in course of time he became very skillful in the manipulation of the work. Although a school boy, all of his spare time was utilized in the mastery of the brick making trade until he was sixteen years old. At this important period in his youthful life he became private secretary to his father, and used his energies and talents in the management of his father's vast building interests until the year of 1901. The contracts of his father were of such a responsible character that they required the careful and systematic attention of a trained accountant, and the splendid success of his father was due not only to the high class ability of the father as an artisan, but to the splendid mathematical skill of the son, whose calculations in estimation of contract work always took care of his father's interests and enabled the father to make a reasonable margin in all of the father's contractual obligations. For fourteen years the doctor personally looked after the business accounts of his father, and thus materially aided him in becoming the leading contractor and builder in his section of the State of North Carolina.

HIS LITERARY EDUCATION.

The State of North Carolina is foremost in the number and excellence of its educational institutions for the race. It maintains not only a common school system that compares favorably with any in the South, but it also has in all probability the greatest number of higher institutions of learning to be found in any of the Southern States. While the race has made great progress along material

lines in the State of North Carolina, its advancement along educational lines has been most commendable, for in this particular the Old North State is called the "garden spot of the South." The worthy subject was blessed with splendid educational opportunities, and that he well used them is demonstrated by his unusual success in life. His elementary education was received in the denominational schools of his native State, especially the Presbyterian schools. In the year of 1881 he began his student life at Biddle University, Charlotte, N. C., an institution of learning under the auspices of the Presbyterian Church, and one of the best educational institutions in the land. The doctor's higher literary training was received in the classic walls of this great university, and he was well prepared therein for the exigencies of life.

A GRADUATE OF LEONARD MEDICAL COLLEGE.

For some unexplainable reason, when he was a youth, the future medical practitioner had a feeling that he was destined to be a doctor, notwithstanding the fact that he had never seen a colored doctor. This feeling became more and more intensified as he became older, and consequently, at the first available opportunity, he realized the ambition of his life by being permitted to pursue in a systematic way the study of medicine. In the year of 1887 he matriculated in the medical department of Shaw University, Leonard Medical College, one of the leading medical colleges of the United States. His student career at the medical college was highly creditable, for he worked diligently and burned the midnight oil in order to understand the principles of the great science to whose keeping the lives of the human race are committed. While at college he won the first prize for superior knowledge of obstetrics. He also merited an unprecedented honor in the history of the medical college by creditably doing the whole four years' work of the course in medicine in a fraction less than three years. His student career was serious in its application to understand the principles of medicine, and when in the year of 1891 he came forth from the classic walls of his alma mater, bearing the highest testimonials that it was in her power to confer upon him, he felt sure of having done his full duty in preparation for his life work.

HIS PROFESSIONAL CAREER BEGAN AT HOME.

As soon as he had graduated from Leonard Medical College, the doctor began the practice of his profession in his home town of Charlotte, N. C., and for ten years he successfully served the cause of humanity in his native State. He succeeded in building up



THE BLACK DIAMOND DRUG COMPANY

what was generally said to have been the "most lucrative practice of any colored physician in the State of North Carolina." In spite of the fact that he began his professional career at home when he was barely in his majority, yet so great was the confidence of the people in his skill in the art of healing that he was immediately selected by the faculty and officers of Biddle University to fill the responsible position of consulting physician to the university, and he served in that capacity for ten years, or until he quit the State to reside in the State of Arkansas in 1901. So far as the records show, his employment in that capacity was a great honor, both from the standpoint of his youthful age and the long tenure of his service.

HORACE GREELEYWARD IN 1901.

The law of civilization is that the effete East must send her philosophers and wise men in the direction of the Occident in order to bring to the people of that benighted region the blessings of civilization and enlightenment, and in unconscious obedience to this inexorable law, the subject of this sketch made his first trip to the land of the West in the year of 1900. He had a dual object in visiting the West, viz., to see his brother and also to examine the possibilities of the new country as a desirable field in which to practice his profession. His visit to the State of Arkansas opened up to his keen business vision a possibility of what he had never before dreamed. The equable climate, fertile soil and teeming population of the race suggested to him without long deliberation that the new country was a veritable Promised Land for him. So he forthwith decided to quit the effete East and cast his lot with this Western land of unlimited possibilities and wealth. He located in the town of Helena, Ark., in the month of June, 1901, and his extraordinary success in his profession amply demonstrates the wisdom of his choice.

THE BLACK DIAMOND DRUG COMPANY.

Not only is the doctor a high class physician, but he is also a wide-awake, successful business man. He is ever seeking the main chance. So in the year of 1904 he established what is now generally known as the Black Diamond Drug Company, but it was located on one of the back streets of his town. He put into his drug business the sum total of all his business energies, determination and professional experience, and his financial resources were so strengthened that in the year of 1908 he was able to seek and occupy more convenient quarters on one of the principal thoroughfares of the city. His business still increasing, he finally located

his drug company in one of the most attractive and most substantial business blocks of the town and situated on the principal street.

In volume of business, convenience of location, quality of professional service and high class modernity, there are indeed few drug stores that equal the Black Diamond Drug Company. First class service combined with reasonable prices is the principle on which this company operates, and for the proper management of its enormous business seven employes and one field operator are necessary. The capital invested in this company is about \$7,500, and the monthly sales will approximate \$2,000. This drug company is one of the business marvels of the town of Helena, and has exerted a salutary influence on the business activity of the race.

HIS SUCCESS AS A MEDICAL PRACTITIONER.

The professional success of the doctor has been phenomenal, and there has not been a day since he hung out his shingle to the breezes of his native State that he did not feel deeply grateful for the kindly recognition that has ever been given to his professional services. He has ever been ambitious to deserve the patronage of his people, and he has succeeded to a gratifying degree. His skill as a practitioner was highly appreciated by the people of his native State, and during his professional sojourn in that State his practice was possibly the biggest in the State. He was highly honored in medical ranks, and was directly associated with some of the leading surgeons of the white race. He was President of the North Carolina Colored Medical Association for one year, and was its honored Secretary for two years. He was also physician in charge of the Samaritan Hospital of Charlotte, N. C., for three years, and he was the only colored physician to fill this honored office.

AN AGGRESSIVE BUSINESS MAN.

The doctor knows the principles of business life quite as thoroughly as he knows the principles of the medical profession. He is one of the leading business men of his town, and his place of business is a center whence radiate many impulses having for their object the development and advancement of the business life of the race. Occupying, as his business establishment does, one of the most pretentious and one of the most substantial structures in the city of Helena, Ark., the doctor, in a commercial sense, is the cynosure of all eyes in that town, and his business success is a source of pride and gratification to the race in general. His business ideas are so progressive and his business success is so marked that in recognition of the same he was honored by his local constituency

with the position of President of the Helena Negro Business League in the year of 1910.

A VERSATILE MUSICIAN.

Early in life circumstances, rather than natural inclination, forced the doctor to become a devotee of the so-called "divine art" of music. Through the kindly interest of friends he was encouraged and elevated to a position of responsibility which required a knowledge of music. He accepted the imposed responsibility with his characteristic philosophy and resolved to make himself highly proficient in the performance of his new duties. Just as he has succeeded in everything that he has ever attempted, he resolved to succeed in the acquisition of musical knowledge. He took up the study of music seriously and in the course of time he developed into one of the best organists in his native State. For years he performed as regular organist in some of the leading churches, and made for himself a permanent reputation as a faithful and capable musician. He is a versatile musician, and numbers several instruments on which he can exercise his talents.

CHURCH AND FRATERNAL AFFILIATIONS.

The doctor's religious views conform with those of the great majority of his acquaintances and associates, for he is a "wheel in the wheel" Baptist and believes in the orthodox principles of his church. He is not at all obnoxious in the advocacy of his religious principles, and he can sup out of the same dish with a rabid Westleyite or fervid Campbellite with equal equanimity. It is nearly superfluous to state that the doctor is a member of all the fraternities, for he is a man of that temperament that easily adapts him to fraternize with his fellows and help them all to approximate a perfect state of brotherly unity and love. In connection with the doctor's initiation in the mysteries of lodgdom, the writer may be pardoned for sadly reflecting and contemplating upon the great calamity that has befallen the bewhiskered goat family by the two hundred and twenty-five pounds of avoirdupois of the doctor.

HIS DEVOTED AND TALENTED WIFE.

Notwithstanding the fact that the subject of this sketch has always been a successful man, there can be no possible doubt that the master successful achievement of his whole life was in the year of 1902, for on the 18th day of January of that year the doctor with stately step to the entrancing bridal strains of Mendelssohn, led to the altar Miss Annie S. Alston, of Louisberg, N.

C. His estimable wife was educated in the Presbyterian schools of Louisberg, and taught for several years in the graded schools of Charlotte, N. C. She is a talented woman, and numbers among her accomplishments a high degree of proficiency in music, which she teaches. She is a wife in the highest and holiest significance of the term, and she is truly the fifth wheel in the success of her husband. Her fidelity to his interests is a source of grateful appreciation to her husband, who never tires of extolling her many virtues. She is invaluable to her husband in his business affairs, for she not only looks after his professional accounts, but she keeps the books of the Black Diamond Drug Company. She is a cheerful, active assistant in the management of her husband's business affairs, and is never so satisfied as when she is contributing some worthy effort to the success and welfare of her faithful guardian and loving husband. She is an ideal companion, and worthy of every consideration that can be bestowed upon her.

THE DOCTOR'S PERSONALITY.

There is much that is potential in one's personality, for an agreeable personality is one of the most valuable assets in the character of any one. There is something wholesome and refreshing in the personality of the doctor, and there is nothing that smacks of selfishness or sordidness in his nature. His attractive personality is simply nature's best and purest endowment, without gross or guile. The hearty handshake, the wreathing smile and the generous physical proportions demonstrate the fact that nature was in her best humor when she produced him. He is one of the most popular as well as one of the most capable physicians of the Southland, and there is no one to question the truthfulness of this statement.

HIS MATERIAL SUCCESS.

The worthy subject of this sketch is blessed with his share of the goods of this world. He has worked hard and sacrificed to put himself beyond the pale of crying want in old age. It has never been his wish to be dependent upon the uncertain charity of the world, so he has ever been mindful of the necessity of laying something by for the rainy days of life. He is one of the most prosperous of the younger citizens of Helena, and is considered to be the premier business man of his section of the State. In the city of Helena he has one of the most substantial, most elegant and most complete residences among the colored population, and in addition to his home he is the owner of eleven houses and lots, whose rental returns a handsome income on his investment. His

property occupies practically a whole block in the rear of his residence, which occupies a commanding and strategic position on the crest of the hill in front. The doctor is a stockholder of the Phillips County Land & Investment Company, and also a stockholder of the Mound Bayou Oil Mill & Manufacturing Company. He carries \$10,000 worth of life insurance for his family, and is thus well prepared for the exigencies of life. He is a big man physically and mentally, and is a splendid example of the best type of the active, energetic and progressive American business man.



Rev. A. M. Johnson, D.D., Vicksburg, Miss.

PRESIDENT MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION AND VICE-
PRESIDENT NATIONAL BAPTIST CONVENTION.



IT IS a great thing to be a preacher, but it is still better to have the distinction of being a great preacher. The true minister of the gospel is the direct and positive medium of communication between God and man, and serves the holiest purpose that it is possible for a human being to serve. The man that carries about in his heart the credentials of his ambassadorship from the Almighty is the greatest official



REV. A. M. JOHNSON, D.D.

dignitary in the world, and can command the respect, confidence and adoration of mankind to an unusual degree. There is presented to the readers of this book the life story of a true, consecrated minister of the gospel, a minister whose record among the Baptists of the State of Mississippi has shone with stellar brightness during

his whole ministerial life of over a quarter of a century. He represents the highest type of the consecrated Christian minister, and he is a man that is worthy of the unbounded popularity that he enjoys.

A PRODUCT OF MISSISSIPPI SOIL.

Dr. A. M. Johnson, the renowned leader of the Baptist denomination of the State of Mississippi, is a product of the soil and climate of that State, and was born in Yazoo City, March 20, 1864. His dear mother, Mrs. Martha Johnson, is still living, moving and having her being in the city of Vicksburg.

HIS LITERARY TRAINING.

The subject completed the course of instruction in the Yazoo City school when he was a youth. Subsequently he went to Nashville, Tennessee, where he matriculated as a student of Walden University. Having been admitted to the student body of that cherished institution of the race, he remained a student in the hallowed walls of that school until he was compelled to quit because of the death of his father. But his feet had been put in the path and trained in wisdom's way, and it was not difficult to add to his intellectual stores by diligent self-application.

CONVERTED EARLY IN LIFE.

The subject of this sketch early in life professed belief in Christ and gave himself to the service of the Master. For over a quarter of a century he has been preaching the gospel of salvation and has accomplished untold good for the cause of Christianity.

A LEADING PASTOR FOR MANY YEARS.

The subject has served some of the best pastorates in the State of Mississippi, and his tenure of office has been exceptionally long. He has the faculty of giving satisfaction in every department of service, and that fact has been at the foundation of his success. He served the Issaquena Missionary Baptist Church for seven years, the First Baptist Church at Port Gibson for nine years, the Galilee Baptist Church of Yazoo City for several years, and he has been serving the Jackson Street Baptist Church of Vicksburg for over ten years.

THE JACKSON STREET BAPTIST CHURCH.

His present pastorate is the Jackson Street Baptist Church of Vicksburg, Miss., which he has served for over ten years. It is probably the largest church in the Hill City, and has a membership

of about four hundred communicants. The church edifice is a mammoth two-story building, that was erected at a total cost of \$22,000. The worthy subject is the first pastor that his present congregation ever had, and the membership numbered only twenty-two when he assumed the pastorate. He has had wonderful success both financially and spiritually with his congregation, and it is probable that he has one of the most loyal and one of the most devoted congregations in his State. His membership includes many of the best and most intelligent people of the city of Vicksburg, and they have shown in every possible way their fidelity to the principles of the denomination and their love for the gifted preacher and consecrated Christian gentleman who has for such a long time been their spiritual leader and comforter.

PRESIDENT MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION.

The subject is the most highly honored preacher in the ranks of the Baptist denomination of his State, for he has held the highest office in the State Convention of that State for several years. He is President of the Baptist State Convention of Mississippi, and has proved himself to be a worthy successor to the illustrious and consecrated gospel fathers who have preceded him. He is the active, vigorous and militant head of the whole denomination in his State, and wields an influence that is as great as it is salutary and wise. He was Educational Secretary of the Baptist State Convention for six years, and since the year of 1904, or about that time, he has served as President. That his administration as President has been highly satisfactory is demonstrated by the fact that he has been unanimously re-elected each time when his term of office has expired.

VICE-PRESIDENT NATIONAL BAPTIST CONVENTION.

Not only is the subject potential in the affairs of the Baptist denomination in his own State, but he is officially connected with the National Baptist Convention, being one of the Vice-Presidents of that august body. Being at the head of one of the largest Baptist constituencies in the United States, it is to be expected that the eminent spiritual father would be no mean factor in the councils of the National Baptist Convention.

A BUSINESS MAN, TOO.

The subject is not only a great preacher, but he is a first-class business man. He is not a religious zealot far removed from business life, but he is a player in the center of the stage in each of

these great fields of human activity and beneficence. He is not only a capable financier in the church, but he is a strong man in business life. He is First Vice-President of the Union Savings Bank of Vicksburg, Miss., and his sagacious counsel has had much to do with the progress and success of that splendid institution of the race.

HAS GOODS OF THIS WORLD.

The worthy subject has not slept on his opportunities for material gain in this life. On the contrary, he has taken time by the forelock to prepare for the happiness and security of his loved ones. He has property of considerable value in the city of Vicksburg, and is considered one of the substantial citizens of that progressive city.

HIS FAITHFUL WIFE.

Early in life it was the good fortune of the subject to win the heart and hand of Miss Clara Fridge of Yazoo City, Miss. She has proved to be not only a noble wife, but a splendid counsellor in his business and spiritual affairs. She has ever been a source of inspiration and strength to him, and he could not have succeeded so well in his ministerial life without her assistance.

A STRONG MAN IN MISSISSIPPI.

Dr. Johnson is one of the strongest and one of the most influential men in the whole State of Mississippi. He is a clean, able and progressive leader, and enjoys a popularity that is not hedged in by State lines. He is not only the leader of the Baptists of the State of Mississippi, but he is the leader of all that stands for race worth, progress and prosperity.



M. L. Clay, Memphis, Tenn.

VICE-PRESIDENT SOLVENT SAVINGS BANK.



BERDEEN is a city in Scotland; it is also a progressive little town in the State of Mississippi. This story is not written concerning any person of Scotch extraction or lineage, but about an humble American citizen of a different race, who in spite of many disadvantages, has climbed far toward the top of the ladder of success.

ONLY MISSISSIPPI PRODUCES THEM LIKE HIM.

Mr. M. L. Clay, the progressive business man whose life story is narrated in this sketch, is a native of the State of Mississippi, and was born near Aberdeen in the year of 1866. He was born on a farm, and learned early in life the value of industry and enterprise.

HIS FIGHT WITH THE ALPHABET.

The school career of the subject began in the district schools in and around the proud and historic town of Aberdeen, Miss. The facilities for instruction were of the most primitive character, and the sum total of the training that he received in them was a working knowledge of the "Three R's." There was one study, however, with which he became quite familiar, hickoryology, and that study had much to do with the progress that the subject did make in his other studies.

THOSE GLORIOUS BOYHOOD DAYS.

In those early days the subject was young, big, strong and healthy, and had an appetite like the fabled ostrich, which was said to have been able to digest iron. He worked hard on the farm and ate; he played hard and ate; he walked and rode many miles to school and ate. Thus each act of his youthful life was embellished and rounded off with the climax of eating. Those were glorious days in his boyhood, and will ever be pleasing to his memory. The final result of his active, hearty and vigorous country life was the extraordinary physical development of the subject. He grew up and he grew down, and he grew all around, until he resembled a human football. His face expanded and rounded until it became a dead ringer for the full, round moon, and his perfect digestion made him kindly of heart and jovial in spirit to such an extent that he was the center of cheerfulness to those with whom he came in contact.

MOVED TO MEMPHIS.

In the latter part of his teens the subject was brought to the city of Memphis by his dear mother, who had decided to locate in



M. L. CLAY

Memphis in order to provide better facilities for the education of her son. As soon as the subject came to the city of Memphis he became a student of LeMoyne Institute. Having attended that school for a while, he matriculated at Fisk University, Nashville,

Tenn., where he ended his acquisition of knowledge in the school room.

RESPONDED TO CALL TO TEACH.

Having added much to his original stock of mental goods, he felt or imagined that he felt the call to teach the youth of the race the nobler things of life. So, in response to this Macedonian call for help, he went to the delta section of his native State and bit one single chew off the plug of experience in teaching. This one pedagogical experience sufficed for all time to dampen his ardor in the glorious life of teaching the young idea how to shoot. The hearty and wide-open reception that was accorded the subject by the nocturnal and diurnal insects of that region caused him to bid farewell to that inhospitable clime, return to the city of Memphis and embark in a business that was more congenial to his tastes.

A MERCHANT IN MEMPHIS.

From his boyhood days the life dream of the subject has been to make money and plenty of it. His youthful dreams were disturbed by the clink and jingle of the almighty dollar, and in his slumbers he tossed about in feverish pursuit of the millions that seemed to be in his reach. True to his youthful ambition he entered mercantile life as the surest and quickest way of realizing the millions that were on his brain. Having first begun business on a modest scale, his business acumen and hustling enterprise caused his business to expand quickly and finally to become the leading colored business establishment in Memphis.

A REMARKABLE BUSINESS MAN.

As a business man the subject believes in operating on a big scale and in the most up-to-date style. His business operations have often been on a scale that seemed too colossal for a city of the size of Memphis. In business aggressiveness and up-to-date-ness he is just about a century in advance of the average run of business men of the race. He believes in giving employment to the worthy young men and young women of the race, and there is not another business man in the city of Memphis that has shown a more generous spirit in this direction. He has a genius for business and a mind that is not daunted by failure. His mind is capable of sustained and continuous effort, and it is so comprehensive in its grasp that it can carry on a hundred different details without slipping a mental cog. He has a big mind, and if he had the means he would be clashing financial arms with the plutocrats

in Wall street, New York, instead of partly sleeping in the arms of Morpheus in the city of Memphis.

HIS BUSINESS ACTIVITIES.

The subject is one of the busiest men in Memphis. He is the leading feed and grain merchant of the race in the city of Memphis, and does a business that is as creditable as it is surprising. His purchases of grain, feed and flour are usually in carload lots, and for this reason his margins can be made as close as any other merchant in the same business in Memphis. He is Third Vice-President of the Solvent Savings Bank & Trust Company of Memphis, and from the very organization of the bank he has been one of its most reliable and one of its most substantial promoters. His ideas of aggressive business methods have been felt in the management of the bank, and the success of the bank has been in large measure due to him. He is the owner and proprietor of the finest tonsorial parlor for colored people in the State of Tennessee. Its fixtures are of costly character, and of the most modern style. Each tonsorial artist has an individual washstand for the use of his patrons. The chairs are white enamel and the best from the standpoint of durability and beauty. In connection with the shop there is a bath room, in which nearly every variety of bath may be taken by its patrons. There is also a large pool room, which affords a pleasurable amusement for its habitues, as well as a good financial return for the proprietor.

HIS ESTIMABLE WIFE.

In the year of 1898 the subject succeeded in winning the heart and hand of Miss Lillie O'Donnell of Memphis, Tenn. She is a woman of handsome appearance and the center of a large circle of admiring friends. After several years of connubial life it pleased the stork to visit her handsome home and leave a card bearing on it this most significant and most welcome inscription:

"Miltonette Clay,
October 13, 1910."

A MAN AS TRUE AS STEEL.

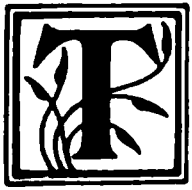
Personally, the subject of this sketch is one of the most popular and one of the most lovable men of the race in the city of Memphis. He is one of the most enterprising men in his community, and he is as liberal in his charities as he is enterprising. He is a first-class business man and a first-class man personally.



MRS. M. L. CLAY AND MILTONETTE

J. E. Walker, LL.B., Gunnison, Miss.

ATTORNEY AT LAW.



HERE is an old saying that "blood will tell," and judging by the many conclusive evidences in support of this contention, there must be more or less truth in it. In many quarters it has been bruited about that the State of Alabama has presented to the South many of its best and most eminent citizens of the Negro race. It matters not in what direction one may go, he will find some hustling, energetic, ambitious and successful man hailing from the State of Alabama as the place of his nativity. Whether in the learned professions or in business or industrial life, the star of Alabama is ever shining brightly above the horizon, proclaiming to the world the superiority of her native sons, and sending them to the four corners of the earth to help in the intellectual and moral development of the races of men.

A NATIVE SON OF ALABAMA.

Lawyer J. E. Walker, the talented and worthy subject of this sketch, first saw the light of day in the picturesque and progressive State of Alabama. He was born in Dallas County, May 4th, 1866, and whatever of success he has achieved in the useful walks of life must be put on the credit side of the ledger of his beautiful native State. He is a worthy contribution to the State of his adoption from a progressive sister State, and thus fits admirably in the scheme of beneficence for which his native State is noted, and to which reference is made in the introductory paragraph.

HIS EARLY WRESTLE WITH THE THREE R's.

The subject first wrestled with the "Three R's" in the primitive schools of Dallas County, Alabama. His attendance was for only a few months at a time. In the year of 1878 his parents quit the State of Alabama and located in the State of Mississippi, near Shannon, Lee County, where he attended school for two or three terms under the instruction of Professors J. H. Reid and Aaron Shannon. In the year of 1881 his knowledge of books and his ambition had increased to such an extent that he decided to quit the rural schools of his home county and attend one of the higher institutions of learning in his State. In doing so he had only his own determined efforts on which to rely. In the year of 1881 he attended Rust University, Holly Springs, Miss., where he remained for one year, but in 1882 he matriculated at the old State Normal



J. F. WALKER, L. L. B.

School, and it was in the classic walls of that school that he received his greatest inspiration to be somebody and to achieve something worthy in life. The subject worked his way through this famous institution of learning and graduated with the highest honors of his class in the year of 1886.

A LEADING TEACHER FOR YEARS.

The subject for several years enjoyed the distinction of being one of the leading teachers in the schools of his adopted State. He taught the Hernando Graded School from 1887 to 1889, and did effective work in other parts of the State. So highly were his professional services appreciated by the educational powers in his State that he was one of the leading institute conductors for the colored teachers.

IN THE RAILWAY POSTAL SERVICE.

While teaching in the public schools of Mississippi, he took the examination for a position in the Railway Postal Service, and made such a creditable examination that he was appointed in the service within sixty days from the date of his examination. He was in the service for eighteen months, and then resigned because of his distaste for the work.

DELVING IN THE MYSTERIES OF BLACKSTONE.

After serving for many years in the teachers' profession, the subject was lured by the fates to the disciplinary but delightful study of Blackstone, and with that object in view he matriculated in the law department of Walden University in the year of 1895. It was his good fortune to receive in that splendid institution a thorough theoretical and practical training for the noble profession that was to be his life work. Having diligently pursued the course of instruction, he was honored with graduation with the degree of Bachelor of Laws in 1897.

PASSED A HIGHLY CREDITABLE EXAMINATION.

Having received his degree from the law department of Walden University, the subject returned to the State of Mississippi to locate and practice his profession. In the autumn of 1897 he triumphantly passed the law examination that was prescribed by the examining board of the State. His examination was duly passed

upon by the Supreme Court of Mississippi, and he was adjudged qualified to practice the legal profession in all of the courts of the State. His record in the examination was so creditable that he merited the personal compliment of Chief Justice Whitfield.

A LUCRATIVE PRACTICE.

The subject is one of the legal luminaries of the State of Mississippi, and enjoys one of the most lucrative practices in the State. He has built up by the sheer force of his intellect one of the largest practices in the State. His annual income from his law practice is from \$4,000 to \$6,000. He has handled successfully some of the largest cases in the delta, and his emoluments have been commensurate with the magnitude of his cases. One of his largest cases was a will case, involving a bequest of \$20,000. This case was won by the eminent subject of this sketch, who received as his fee the sum of \$3,000. He is said to have the largest chancery practice of any lawyer in Boliver County, Miss.

ATTORNEY FOR MANY INTERESTS.

It is perfectly reasonable that the valuable services of the subject would be in great demand in a legal way, for he is unquestionably one of the most intellectual men in the ranks of the race. He is the legal adviser for the Independent Order of Eagles of America. Also, he is attorney for the Loyal Sons and Daughters of Charity of the World. He was the founder of the Colored Woodmen, which is now one of the leading fraternal organizations of the State. He was likewise the founder of the Pioneer Mutual Aid Society, and still serves with that organization as Grand Master of the State of Mississippi.

HAS VALUABLE PROPERTY.

The subject of this sketch has flourished materially from the practice of his profession in the delta, and he is now one of the largest property owners in his section of the State. He is the owner of fifteen houses and lots in the town of Gunnison, Miss. He is also the owner of several lots in Langston City, Oklahoma, and eighteen lots in Taft, Okla. He has realty in his old home town of Hernando, Miss. The total income from his rents alone is about \$250 per month. He is interested in many business enterprises of the race, and is considered one of the premier business men of the delta.

TWICE BLESSED IN MATRIMONY.

Twice in the life of the subject has he made a happy voyage on the sea of matrimony. His first wife was Miss Nannie Townsend, the accomplished daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Townsend, of Hernando, Miss. This happy union was of short duration, and was terminated by the death of the dear one, who left behind a loving daughter to mourn her untimely end. This daughter, Miss Irma Walker, is now a student at Walden University, Nashville, Tenn. In the month of October, 1894, the subject was united in the holy bonds of wedlock to Miss Corinne White, the talented daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Willis White, of Hernando, Miss. She is one of the leading teachers of DeSoto and Boliver counties. She is an accomplished musician, and is endowed with many of the natural and acquired gifts which make her indispensable to the success of her devoted husband. She is a practical woman, and materially assists her husband in his legal and business affairs. Both husband and wife make a team that is nearly invincible in the race of life, and the dear husband freely concedes his dependence upon his wife for most of the success that he has achieved.

THEIR CHILDREN.

By the last matrimonial union the subject has four children, Joseph E. Walker, Jr., Charles Sumner Walker, Frederic Walker and Marshall Walker. The first two boys now attend Rust University, Holly Springs, Miss., and bid fair to ascend quite a distance up the hill of learning.

HIS PERSONALTY.

Lawyer J. E. Walker is a worthy man, and he has made his way from the bottom to the topmost round of the ladder of success. He always had an ambition to do something that would count heavily in the game of life. When he taught school he aspired to be one of the leaders in that profession; when he was in the railway postal service for eighteen months he strove to master every detail of that business, and since he entered upon the practice of the legal profession he has had the ambition to rise to the leadership of the bar of his State. From a poor, struggling boy on the farm he has risen to be one of the greatest barristers and one of the most prosperous men of the race in the Southland. He has burned the midnight oil of diligence to prepare for a useful and serviceable life, and the reward for his labors has been commensurate with the sacrifices and efforts he has made to succeed. He

is at heart one of the best men that ever wore shoe leather, and he is in every respect a worthy leader of the race. He is an able lawyer, an energetic citizen, an enterprising business man, and a first-class man on general principles. He is of commanding physique, and his increasing physical proportions are in harmony with his mental growth. Few have grown so rapidly in the material walks of life, and none are worthier of the success gained than he. That the subject is all right is the unanimous opinion of the people of his section of the delta.



Prof. R. B. Hudson, A.M., Selma, Ala.

PRINCIPAL SELMA CITY SCHOOLS AND SECRETARY NATIONAL
BAPTIST CONVENTION.



VERSATILITY of talents is one of the most precious legacies that can be bequeathed to mankind, and it readily admits its fortunate possessor to the charmed circle of the world's intellectual greatness. It is the fiat of an all-wise Providence that the natural endowments of man shall be as diverse as nature herself; that one man shall have one talent and another man more than one talent. A story is herein told concerning a representative of the Negro race, who is extraordinary in the number and variety of his talents and who has gained in the domain of success a reward that is commensurate with his talents. Mother Nature was prodigal with her gifts to the subject, and created him one of the most symmetrical, most versatile and most accomplished geniuses of the race.

HIS NATIVITY.

Prof. R. B. Hudson, the eminent educator and business man whose life story is one of the attractions of this book, is a native of the State in which he has risen to success and fame, and was born in Uniontown, Perry County, in the year of 1866. He is a native son, whose remarkable life and worthy accomplishments have already shed luster, not only on his own name, but on the name of the Negro race.

HIS PARENTS.

The subject was the gifted son of Richard and Millie Hudson. His parents were not highly educated in the ways of books, but they had an intelligent conception of the meaning of life and its serious responsibilities, as well as its glorious opportunities. They belonged to the old school of domestic virtues, and they lived the lives of honest, industrious and law-abiding people. They were in fairly good circumstances as to the goods of this world, for they owned a home in town and a farm in the country, and were thus doubly blessed for a resting place when they should become either weary or worn. The father, in spite of his lack of education, was one of the leading citizens of his community, and was often honored with election as councilman of his town, foreman of the jury, and other positions showing the esteem in which he was held by his fellow citizens.



PROF. R. B. HUDSON, A. M.

HIS EDUCATION.

In addition to the great love that the parents had for their son Richard, they also had an abiding faith in the importance and value of education, notwithstanding the fact that the parents themselves had not enjoyed any of the blessings of education. Early they resolved to realize in their son, if possible, the sum total of knowledge of which they had been deprived by the institution of slavery. They sent him to school at an early age, and at the beginning of his experience in school he began to give evidence of those higher powers of mind for which he subsequently became famous. His youthful precocity enabled him at once to take the leading rank among the pupils of the elementary school which he attended, and in his first year in school he succeeded in overtaking in his studies the son of the postmaster, who had spent two years in the same school before the subject had begun. He attended the public school in Uniontown, Ala., and subsequently began his meteoric and brilliant career at Selma University, Selma, Ala., whose normal course he completed at the early age of fifteen years.

A GRADUATE OF SELMA UNIVERSITY.

As soon as the subject had received his diploma of graduation from the normal department of Selma University, he at once began his student career in the college department with the avowed intention of completing the classical course. He had anticipated his action during the last two years of his normal course by taking the studies of the college preparatory department in connection with his normal work. While a student in the college department the high character and intellectual worth of the subject commended him to the executive heads and faculty of the university to that extent that they appointed him student teacher in the university, a position he filled with signal ability. His employment as student teacher, in connection with the pursuit of his trade as printer, materially assisted him in the payment of his expenses while a student in college. In the fullness of time the subject received the coveted honor which he had struggled to gain, the degree of Bachelor of Arts.

POST-GRADUATE WORK.

The subject not only graduated from the classical course of Selma University, but for several summers he took post-graduate work at Chautauqua, New York. The subject was ambitious to fortify himself with the most thorough preparation and the broadest mental culture. His experience with the towering intellects in the

Chautauquan assemblies of the North gave the subject an insight to learning's way which has been an inspiration to himself and through his instrumentality a blessing to the youth of the race.

A LEADING EDUCATOR.

There was method in the careful preparation of the subject for his life work, and if he has gained unusual success in the profession of teaching it was because he put into his preparation all of the basic elements that can command success. The ability that was shown by the subject when he was a student teacher at Selma University so commended him to the officers of the university that he was tendered the chair of mathematics, a position which he filled with his characteristic ability. Over twenty years ago he began his career as principal of the city colored schools of Selma, Ala., and his phenomenal success has long since demonstrated the fact that he is not only one of the brightest stars in the educational firmament of his State, but one of the brightest in the nation. For a generation he has been at the head of the leading public schools in the State of Alabama, and in that capacity he has been the source of inspiration that has penetrated the remotest nooks and corners of his State. Under him a high degree of efficiency has been maintained among the teaching corps, and the general scholarship of the school is on a parity with the best systems in the South.

A VERSATILE GENIUS.

(a)

CASHIER PENNY SAVINGS BANK.

Not only is the subject the leading educator of the State of Alabama, but he is one of the premier business men of that State. He is a financier of the first rank among the successful business men of his State, and a power to be reckoned with in the material life of his State. He has a genius to an abnormal degree for money-making and legitimate speculation, and it is the complimentary declaration of some of the distinguished professor's friends that he would flourish financially in the dry, hot and parching sands of the desert of Sahara. Without question the subject has long demonstrated the fact that he is one of the ablest financiers of his State, for when the business interests of his community saw the wisdom of organizing a bank, it was the unanimous voice of the promoters of the contemplated bank to elect him to the responsible position of cashier. As cashier of this institution his ability as a financier has a wider scope for its operations and it is an easy proposition to ascribe to the financial genius of its able cashier

a great degree of the bank's financial success and prosperity. He represents a type of success that can not be gainsaid or discounted by the most fanatical unbeliever in the integrity of the leaders of the race, and he was the man, above all others, that was to be put at the head of the Penny Savings Bank in order to give it influence, prestige and power among all classes of the race.

(b)

PROPRIETOR OF A MAMMOTH COAL YARD.

For sixteen years the subject of this sketch has been the proprietor of one of the largest coal and wood yards in the State of Alabama. His coal yard covers one-half of a block and the land, which is owned by Prof. Hudson, is of considerable value. His yard is abutting the railroad, from which a side track extends into the yard. His mammoth business is the result of his perseverance and the practice of first-class business principles. When the subject first began in the coal business his efforts were on the most humble scale. His first deliveries were made in the humble and unpretentious wheelbarrow, and his first purchases of coal were on the same humble scale. His business has been developed along business lines, until it is one of the largest of its kind in the State. His coal is ordered in carload lots, and his patrons are not restricted to his own race. When the matter of excellence and value received for the money comes in, the so-called color line is not always in evidence. The high class of the coal he sells and the polite service and business methods of this prince of commercial life enable him to receive the patronage of many of the best white and colored people of Selma. He does not seek the patronage of his people simply because he is a colored man, but because he believes that he can give them just as good coal for the money and just as prompt and business-like service as anybody else. Acting on this basic principle, he has slowly yet surely risen to the top in his business, and can compete with almost any other company in the State.

(c)

A LEADER IN BUSINESS LEAGUE CIRCLES.

In the domain of business development he has played a conspicuous part. He was one of the original promoters of the now famous National Negro Business League. He has ever been one of the bright stars in the business firmament of his State, and is now President of the Selma Negro Business League. His name in business circles throughout the State of Alabama has a signifi-

cance and weight second to no other man in the State, and he is a lodestone that draws all the other lights in his direction.

(d)

AN ACTIVE SCHOOLMASTER.

The subject has for years taken a leading rank in the educational world, and is probably the best known schoolmaster in the State of Alabama. He has been in the thickest of the crusade for educational development and progress in his State, and it has been his pleasure to note vast improvement in the educational spirit in his city and State since the early days of his professional career. He is not an educational recluse or hermit, living on the memories of the dead past, but he is an active, forceful and energetic leader in everything that has for its object the educational advancement and uplift of his people. At one time he served as Secretary of the Alabama State Teachers' Association, and subsequently he was elected to the presidency of that same organization.

(e)

A MOST DISTINGUISHED LAYMAN.

Prof. R. B. Hudson has the unusual honor of filling the exalted office of Recording Secretary of the National Baptist Convention, and he has served in that capacity for five years. So creditably and so ably has he performed his duties that he has been re-elected each year by the unanimous voice of the convention. He is the only layman that is honored with a national office in connection with the National Baptist Convention. He is Secretary of the Alabama State Baptist Convention, and has served in that capacity for sixteen years. He has served as Statistician of Sunday Schools of the Alabama Baptist State Convention for eighteen years. He has served as President of the Sunday School District Convention for sixteen years, and Superintendent of the Sunday School for twenty-one years. His thorough knowledge of the Scriptures, his expert knowledge of Baptist principles and polity, and his well-known piety, make him an humble authority in the ranks of his denomination and render his knowledge and opinion worthy to be consulted by people from all over the State.

(f)

DELEGATE TO THE WORLD'S MISSIONARY CONFERENCE.

One of the crowning honors that the distinguished subject received from the Baptist denomination was his election as delegate from the National Baptist Convention to the World's Missionary

Conference, which convened in Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1910. He is the only layman to whom such an honor has been accorded. Having served the interest of the National Baptist Convention to the best of his ability in the meeting of the World's Missionary Conference, the subject took advantage of the opportunity to travel and visit extensively both in Insular and in Continental Europe. In Insular Europe he visited England, Scotland and Ireland; then he crossed the Channel and made an extensive itinerary through France, Switzerland, Germany, Belgium, Netherlands and Italy. It was his extraordinary fortune to witness the Passion Play at Oberammergan.

ENJOYS UNIVERSAL RESPECT AND ESTEEM.

No other man in the State of Alabama is more worthy of respect and esteem than the subject of this sketch. He is one of the most popular members of the race in the State of Alabama, and he numbers his staunchest friends and supporters among the very best element of the dominant race. He is an enterprising, aggressive source of beneficence to the people of his community, and all of them, irrespective of race, rejoice to accord him honor. Both in the domain of church and state he is the embodiment of progress and inspiration to his people, and it is the general belief that the subject has contributed as much as any other man to the welfare, prosperity and glory of his race in the State of Alabama.

A HIGH TRIBUTE FROM DR. B. T. WASHINGTON.

The subject enjoys the personal admiration and friendship of Dr. Booker T. Washington, the Sage of Tuskegee, and the following excerpt complimentary to the subject will give a faint idea of the esteem in which the subject is held by the most famous and the most noted Negro educator in the world. In a communication that was published in the *Colored Alabamian*, the noted exponent of industrial education thus writes:

"I want to thank you most earnestly and heartily for your publishing the picture and a sketch of the life of Prof. R. B. Hudson, of Selma, Ala. I am afraid that the people of Alabama do not appreciate the real worth and ability of Prof. Hudson in the way they should. I have not only known him for a number of years, ever since I have been in the State, but it has been my privilege to come into contact with him on several occasions outside of the State, in the South and in the North, when he has been in attendance at large national gatherings, and on each occasion I have been surprised as well as pleased with the ability, clear-headedness

and genuine strength which Prof. Hudson has always exhibited during these gatherings. He has shown himself on each occasion to be a leader of rare ability, and especially a clear-headed, systematic thinker and worker. Whenever I have seen him in large gatherings, or in his daily work, I have always felt proud that it was my privilege to know him for a number of years and count



RESIDENCE OF PROF. R B HUDSON

him as my friend; but the main purpose of this letter is to impress upon the people of our State the fact that we have a man in our midst, a man of such rare ability, and I repeat that you are to be congratulated for presenting him before the public through the medium of your paper."

The above quoted communication speaks for itself and shows the real worth of the subject and how his worth is really appreciated by the most able and most excellent man that is considered the most noted educator of the Negro race in the whole wide world. It would be a great honor on the part of any man to be able to deserve such a high compliment from such an exalted source.

THE NOBLE PARTNER OF HIS JOYS AND SORROWS.

Life has smiled some of its sweetest smiles on the distinguished educator and layman, for it provided for him for his inspiration and

comfort one of the truest and one of the most devoted friends that ever lived in the person of his estimable and accomplished wife. She was a Miss Irene M. Thompson, and had the honor of receiving her diploma of graduation from Tuskegee Normal Institute. She was a teacher in the schools of Birmingham, Ala., and at the Denmark Industrial School at Denmark, South Carolina. Two children bless their union, the elder a member of the sophomore class of Atlanta Baptist College, and the other a pupil of the Selma Public School. Prof. Hudson's success must be shared with his loyal and devoted wife, and there is no one that will cheerfully concede the invaluable assistance of his wife to the same extent that the subject will.

A WEALTHY AND HONORABLE MAN.

The worthy subject of this sketch is receiving some of his reward for his active, energetic and useful life while he is residing on these mundane shores. The Lord has not deferred his blessing until his admittance to the better world, but He is blessing him in this terrestrial existence. Prof. Hudson is one of the wealthiest men in the State of Alabama. He is the owner of one of the most substantial residences in the State of Alabama, and in addition thereto he is the owner of several pieces of valuable improved property. One of his buildings is a three-story brick building, which is conservatively estimated to be worth \$15,000. His valuable one-half block on which his coal and wood yard is located has already been referred to. He is such a deserving and energetic man that many conditions and things have conspired to make him as rich in this world comparatively as he will be in the glorious one above.

AN ESTIMATE.

Prof. Hudson is one of the most useful and one of the most serviceable men in the ranks of the race, whatever the section of the country may be. He is essentially a man of large and varied affairs, and can manage them all with even a greater degree of success than some men can manage just one affair. He has a mind that was created to conquer and command leadership. By the sheer force of his intellectual and moral powers he early became a dominating, potential force in the affairs of his State, and time has only intensified the hold that he has on the best wishes and affection of his people. Prof. Hudson is a strong man from whatever standpoint he may be observed, and he is the man above all others in his State that stands highest in educational, business, financial and Christian affairs.

B. F. Booth, Memphis, Tenn.

ATTORNEY AND COUNSELLOR.



OF ALL the professions that require the highest powers of the intellectual and moral nature, the profession of law stands pre-eminent. It is one of the most ancient of the so-called learned professions, and has been developed and elaborated from the earliest ages of mankind down to the present time. There never was a time from the fall of man in the Garden of Eden until the present time that human rights did not need to be safeguarded. The law is the impartial tribune of the universe, and its exponents are the best promoters of the peace, happiness and glory of the human race. Success in the practice of the law requires innate talents of the highest order, and if a man is not endowed with certain natural attributes, all of the law schools in the universe can not guarantee him professional success. Legal success requires patience, diligence and persistence in the acquisition of knowledge and the application of the principles gained to the problems of life. No man can be a successful lawyer unless he reads constantly and assimilates the basic truths of this most ancient and most honorable profession. Success in the practice of law requires great learning, clear reasoning powers and ability to express one's self clearly and cogently on one's feet while in the heat of verbal combat. One of the best equipped lawyers of the Negro race and one that is endowed with all of the necessary powers in the superlative degree is Lawyer B. F. Booth, of Memphis, Tenn., a leading practitioner, not only at the bar of Tennessee, but of the entire Southland.

A NATIVE SON OF MISSISSIPPI.

The able and eminent barrister whose life story is the burden of this sketch, is a native son of Mississippi, and was born near Baldwin, in Prentiss County, October 17, 1858. He was born and reared to man's estate on a farm, and his eminently successful career in the legal profession had its first stimulus when he was a hard-working youth on the farm.

HIS LITERARY TRAINING.

The elementary education of the subject was received in the common schools of Tippah County, Miss. He attended school in the primitive district schools of his county until he was sixteen years of age. His active school life was interrupted for a few



B. F. BOOTH, ESQ.

years because of the subject's teaching school and working on the farm. In the year of 1880 the subject became a student of the State Normal School, Holly Springs, Miss. He was a student of that historic institution of learning when it was in its prime, and his intellectual powers were of such a high order that he was one of the favorite students of the school. Having been faithful to the tasks that were imposed upon him, the subject graduated with honor from the State Normal School in the year of 1884.

A LEADING TEACHER IN HIS DAY.

The subject began his long and useful career in the school room at an unusually early age, for he had just attained to his sixteenth year when he donned the toga of schoolmaster. Not only did he teach school before he went to the State Normal School, but he taught after his graduation. He had considerable experience in the common schools of his native State and of the State of Tennessee, and for two years he was principal of the public school at Bolivar, Tenn. His work in the Bolivar public school was of such a character as to cause patrons of the school the greatest reluctance to give up his services for him to enter upon the practice of law.

BEGAN THE STUDY OF LAW IN 1884.

For some inexplicable reason the study of law has always had a fascination for the subject, and the result was that he dedicated himself to the study and practice of law when he was a youth of tender years. He first began the systematic reading of law while he was teaching school at Middleton, Tenn., in 1884. From the proceeds of his wages as teacher he purchased copies of the immortal Blackstone, which he diligently read while he was teaching school. His first attempt at the study of law was alone, but after he had laid much of the foundation of this great science he succeeded in getting under the brilliant instruction of Col. William Inge, of Corinth, Miss., who had the honor of being the first law teacher of the subject. Col. Inge was one of the greatest criminal lawyers of the State of Mississippi, and at the time the subject was being instructed by him Col. Inge was the Speaker of the Mississippi House of Representatives. He read under Col. Inge for about one year and then subsequently read under Judge Francis Fentress. It is doubtful if many law students ever studied the principles of the legal profession more diligently than he did. Whether teaching school or at home working in the field, his law books were his constant companions, and his best friends. Truly

when working in the field as he did and studying his law books as he did, there is no reason why he should not have gained a "working knowledge" of law.

EXTENT OF HIS PREPARATION.

If the subject today represents the very highest type of the erudite and successful lawyer, it is because of the fact that he was so thoroughly prepared and trained for success. It has been the privilege of few law students to receive a more careful preparation for legal success. Studying as he did under the instruction of some of the ablest lawyers of the South, he had not only the opportunity to receive practical information fresh from the fountain head, but he gained from this early contact an inspiration that made the study of law far more pleasant than it might otherwise have been. There is nothing more inspiring to the ambitious student than first class instruction. The right kind of instruction, together with the remarkable receptive power on the part of the brilliant student, made the acquisition of legal knowledge an easy proposition.

HIS SHINGLE OUT IN BOLIVAR.

The future eminent lawyer began the practice of his profession at Bolivar, Tenn., September 8, 1885, while he was teaching the public school at that place. The educational powers that were at the head of affairs gave him every encouragement to start out auspiciously in his profession, and they gladly retained him in the school in spite of the fact that his efforts were turned in the direction of the legal profession instead of the school room. He practiced his profession in Bolivar until January, 1889, when he moved to the city of Memphis, where he would have a greater and more lucrative field for the exercise of his talents.

A NEW LAWYER IN MEMPHIS.

The very first case at law that the subject had was one of the hardest and one of the most responsible of his long and brilliant career. He seemed to have arrived in the city of Memphis at the psychological moment for the greatest effort of his legal career. He was counsel in the famous election contest of Eaton vs. Phelan in the contest of the former for a seat in the House of Representatives at Washington, D. C. In looking after the interests of his client the subject had to canvass the four counties of the Tenth Congressional District, and he took 1,400 depositions.

Those were warm times in political life, and it required a resolute, determined heart to undergo the ordeal. This celebrated election contest case gave the subject a brilliant introduction to the citizens of Memphis, Tenn., and gave him at once a lucrative practice.

THE MOST LUCRATIVE PRACTICE IN THE SOUTH.

It is reasonable to judge the professional ability of a lawyer by the number of his clients and the character of his success. It is the general belief of those who are in position to know that the subject has the most lucrative practice in the South. His fees in many instances range from \$500 to \$2,000 and \$3,000. He has the honor of having been paid the largest fee that has ever been paid to a colored barrister South of the Ohio river, and the largest fee that has ever been paid to any Negro lawyer in this country, with the probable exception of Edward Morris, Esq., the eminent lawyer of Chicago, Ill. His largest fee was in connection with a celebrated contested will case, involving property to the value of \$40,000. In bringing this cause to a successful termination it was necessary for him to travel and take depositions all over the country.

A MARVELOUS MEMORY.

The subject's recollection of legal principles, facts and precedents borders upon the marvelous. It has been demonstrated to the disappointment and sorrow of many a practicing attorney that the subject never forgets the law governing any case that he has ever read. He is a veritable walking encyclopedia of legal information and the peer of any other lawyer at the bar. In the now more than a quarter of a century of successful practice it is said that he has never made the same legal mistake twice in succession.

A VERSATILE LAWYER.

The subject is one of the best prepared lawyers in America, and is considered to be the ideal lawyer from the standpoint of versatility. While he is well versed in all branches of the law, yet he has a preference for civil law. He is a master of civil proceedings, and has a practice in that department of the law second to few lawyers of the dominant race. He is a great criminal lawyer, and this statement is evidenced by the fact that no client of his has ever suffered capital punishment. And this is the case in spite of the fact that the subject has probably had as much criminal practice as any other lawyer at the bar.

A LAWYER, NOT AN ORATOR.

The phenomenal success of Mr. Booth as a lawyer is ample proof of the superiority of legal knowledge over mere oratorical ability. To succeed in the practice of law one must have a profound knowledge of the principles of the legal profession. The mere gift of gab is futile before the tribunal of justice. The subject makes no pretensions to the gifts of oratory, because the mere power of oratory does not have much weight with the judges and the juries into whose hands the fate of defendants is placed. The legal efforts of the subject are couched in the simplest and most concise language, without the use of any studied phrases or glittering generalities. He goes immediately to the meat in the legal cocoanut, and has the faculty of making such a clear elucidation of the law governing the question at issue that there is seemingly nothing else to be said. He is one of the most resourceful lawyers in the world, and knows every possible action to take in order to forestall his adversaries and conserve the interests of his clients. If there is such a person as a "born lawyer," the subject is undoubtedly one of them, for he has essentially a legal mind.

STANDS HIGH IN THE ESTIMATION OF THE COURTS.

From the standpoint of legal ability, the subject stands second to none in the estimation of the courts. In his large practice before the Supreme Court of the State of Tennessee and the United States District Courts, his eminent legal qualification has won the admiration of judges and jurors alike. His simple language, unaffected style of delivery, modest bearing, unerring reasoning and profound legal learning have deeply impressed the luminaries of the profession, and all of them have with a singular degree of unanimity conceded to him leadership at the bar of public justice.

OFFICIAL ATTORNEY.

The subject is not only one of the organizers of the Fraternal Savings Bank & Trust Company of Memphis, but he is its regular attorney. Not only has his money helped to give financial strength to this well known banking institution of the race, but his wise counsel has enabled the bank to steer clear of the Scylla and Charybdis of business adversity and make one of the most phenomenal records in the history of banking institutions of the race. The subject is also Grand Attorney for the Knights of Pythias for the State of Tennessee.

A MAN OF INDEPENDENT MEANS.

It is only reasonable that one of the most successful lawyers in the ranks of the race should have made a competency in life for himself. He is a man in independent circumstances, and has much to show for his many years of professional success. It is the supposition that the income from his practice will average between \$8,000 and \$10,000 yearly. Frequently his income is in excess of this sum, but seldom under. In addition to owning one of the handsomest homes in the city of Memphis, he is the owner of several other pieces of improved property in Memphis; also, he owns a valuable farm of forty acres near Millington, Tenn. He is one of the most substantial citizens of Memphis, and has earned his competency by the powers of his superb legal mind.

HIS ESTIMABLE WIFE.

The 21st of March, 1901, will ever be memorable to the subject by his marriage to Miss Edith Martin, of Memphis, Tenn. She is the mistress of one of the most elegant homes in the city of Memphis, and she presides over her home with queenly dignity. The union of the subject and his estimable wife has been cemented by one of the most precocious girls in the land, Miss Bennie Jennette Booth, who bids fair to be as fine a young woman as she is now a precocious child.

HIS GREAT CAREER.

The subject of this sketch has had a great career from whatever standpoint his interesting life may be considered. He is the builder of his own monument of success, for he had no advantages in his youth except what his indomitable will and perseverance gave to him. His great success should be an inspiration to every boy of the Negro race to do the best of which he is capable. For over a quarter of a century he has met on the field of legal combat hundreds of the ablest and most gifted members of the Anglo-Saxon race, and his success with them has been so marvelous as to excite their commendation instead of their resentment or envy. It is the willing admission of all that the subject is one of the foremost lawyers, irrespective of race, that can be found in this whole country. He is a hard student, and has gained his pre-eminence by adhering strictly to the practice of his profession and leaving other things alone. Many years ago the subject realized the fact that law is a jealous mistress, and will tolerate interference from no other source. He is devoted to the study of his profession, and that is the explanation for his wonderful success.

Professor E. H. McKissack, A.M., Holly Springs, Miss.



IT WILL undoubtedly be a great surprise to many of the thousands of friends and admirers of the distinguished educator and business man whose name graces the head of this sketch to read that he is a native of the city of Memphis, Tennessee. So seldom has it been the good fortune of that city to number its native sons in the galaxy of the race's greatness that in this particular instance it will be as gratifying as it is surprising. The name of this eminent educator has always been associated with the State of Mississippi, and it is somewhat difficult for his friends to readjust their minds to the fact that he is by birth a worthy product of the city on the big bluff, where he first opened his infant eyes November 22, 1860.

AN ALUMNUS OF RUST UNIVERSITY.

His education was acquired in the schools of Holly Springs, Miss., to which place his parents carried him when he was a mere, prattling babe. Rust University claims the honor of his education. He is a man of the greatest intellectuality, and he is probably the best known and most highly esteemed alumnus of the university which so proudly claims him as her own. He completed the classical course of Rust University in the year of 1895, and received his master's degree from this institution in the year of 1898.

A MEMBER OF THE FACULTY OF RUST UNIVERSITY.

The record of Professor McKissack while a student at Rust University was such as to commend him early to the best wishes of the college authorities, and during a great part of his student life under the fostering care of his alma mater he was one of its most earnest and most faithful teachers. The fact is, he was one of the most serviceable men ever connected with the university, and his versatile accomplishments enabled him to fit in acceptably wherever there was an imperative need of first-class ability and leadership. He was the general utility professor while connected with the faculty of Rust University, and because of his ability to get results he was for many years a factor indispensable to the welfare of the college.

MIGHT HAVE BEEN PRESIDENT OF RUST UNIVERSITY.

The official connection of Professor McKissack with Rust University was of long duration, and it is probable that the records will show that his tenure of office in that institution was longer



PROF. E. H. MCKISSACK, A.M.

than that of any other professor in the history of the college. He was principal of the commercial department for three years; he occupied the chair of mathematics for two years, and he was professor of natural science until his resignation from the faculty in the year of 1910. For fifteen years he was the honored Secretary of the faculty of Rust University, and so generally were his merits, both as an educator and high class citizen, known and appreciated, that he was tendered the exalted office of President of the University in the year of 1909.

HAS THE QUALIFICATION FOR AN IDEAL COLLEGE PRESIDENT.

It is the profound belief of many of the friends of the worthy professor that it would have resulted in unprecedented prosperity for that grand old institution of learning if he had honored it with the acceptance of its presidency. The professor was for a whole generation one of the pillars of the institution, and no other man was better acquainted with the needs of the college and more able to pilot it to the haven of success.

It has been the misfortune of Rust University to change its official head on more occasions than one, and it was largely because of Professor McKissack's continuance in office that the university has gotten along with so little inconvenience.

Considering his long connection with the college, his splendid intellectuality, and his masterly ability as a schoolmaster, Professor McKissack would have made an ideal President of Rust University if it had been convenient for him to accept the great honor that was tendered him. The successful management of a great college requires not only great intellectual ability, but great business and administrative ability as well. This is a business age, and a man with business ability of a high order can acceptably fit in wherever he is needed, provided his intellectual equipment is of the proper caliber. The professor is one of the ablest business men in the State of Mississippi, and just such a man as should preside over the destiny of an institution of the character of Rust University. He has perhaps the largest personal acquaintance in his State, and is at the same time one of the most popular men in the State of Mississippi; consequently, with his great executive ability, combined with all the other elements which commend him to popular favor, he would have given Rust University the grandest administration in its history, if he had been able to accept its presidency. Professor McKissack is interested in so many important business enterprises in his State, and his time is so occupied in their management that not only could he not accept the presidency of the

university in question, but he was compelled to resign the position which he had so long and faithfully filled. He had retained his position with the university for many years at a great personal sacrifice, and he felt that his loyalty to the interests of the university had been sufficiently tested to the neglect of his own personal affairs.

A VETERAN LEADER IN THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

The great service which Professor McKissack was able for so many years to render his alma mater was because of his versatile ability. Early in life he became an active worker in the domain of the Methodist Episcopal Church and a factor as influential in church work as he was in the domain of education. For fifteen years he was the honored Superintendent of the Sunday School of Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church of Holly Springs, Miss. In the year of 1898 he was licensed to preach the gospel, and he was subsequently ordained by Bishop Andrews. For six months he was pastor pro tempore of Asbury M. E. Church of his home town, and his service in that capacity was acceptable in the usual way characteristic of the man. He has been honored in the highest degree by his church. He was a delegate to the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in its sessions at Cleveland, Chicago, Los Angeles and Baltimore, Maryland. He is a member of the Board of Control of the Epworth League. He represented the Seventh Episcopal District as a member of the Insurance Board of the church, and he responded to his name on the program at the session of the National Epworth League Convention at Seattle, Washington, in the year of 1909. From the efficient and graceful manner in which he has served the interests of his church, it is evident that if the professor had elected to take up holy orders for his life work he could have aspired to the highest ranks in the gift of his church.

AN ACTIVE POLITICAL LEADER.

The worthy subject of this sketch has a highly creditable career in the domain of politics. He has ever been faithful to the exercise of his rights as an American citizen, and he has no apology to make for his manliness in cherishing the elective franchise as being one of the dearest prerogatives of American citizenship. He believes that in a decent, respectable and manly way every competent man should exercise every privilege that is guaranteed him by the constitution of the land, for in no other way can there be real, representative self-government. With him the trite saying

that the voice of the people is the voice of God, holds good only when the sovereign people exercise their political rights. The versatile professor is not a political agitator, nor is he an extremist along any line, but he is a man that has always been noted for his conservative principles. He does not seek to array one class of his fellow citizens against the other, for in the final analysis he has as much to lose in a material way as almost any other colored man in the South. In politics, while he has affiliated with the Republican party, he has always been in favor of the men whom he has conceived to represent the most liberal sentiment for the welfare and prosperity of this Southland. He has been for men and principles in contradistinction to party and professions, but his affiliation along party lines has been with the historic Republican party. He has been Chairman of the Republican Congressional Committee of the Second District of Mississippi, and he was Chairman of the Marshal County Republican Committee. He was honored with election as delegate to the National Republican Convention in the years of 1904 and 1908, and at each time he was made the head of the delegation by the biggest vote that was polled. He is not a politician for the loaves and fishes, but from principle. He believes in the exercise of his political rights, and in doing the same he is guided by sacred principles instead of pelf.

SECRETARY-TREASURER ODD FELLOWS' BENEFIT ASSOCIATION.

It is not as a man active in the councils of political organizations that Professor McKissack is best known all over the State of Mississippi. While he is an eminent educator and business man, it is probable that he is most widely known and appreciated as a leader and genius in fraternity circles. In the year of 1888 he was elected Secretary and Treasurer of the Odd Fellows' Benefit Association of the State of Mississippi, and has served in that capacity for a generation, having been repeatedly elected to that exalted position of trust and responsibility. In his official capacity he looks after the finances of that great and leading fraternal organization in the State of Mississippi, and his masterly knowledge as an accountant and his long and successful experience as a business man have made him one of the most efficient public servants in the history of race lodgdom. He is peculiarly adapted to the successful management of his office because of his thorough knowledge of business principles and his known financial stability as a citizen. The word of Professor McKissack will go with all classes as far as any other man of his state, and it rings as true as a gold coin fresh from the government mint. His office is located in Holly Springs, and it is perfectly equipped as to facilities and conveni-

ences for clerical work. He has office appliances to the value of more than two thousand dollars, and they include typewriters, adding machines, cabinets and all the latest, up-to-date paraphernalia. There are employed in the office six capable and efficient clerks, bookkeepers and stenographers, and they are in service the year round. There is an air of strict business permeating the office that is characteristic of the head, and the office is a wholesome example of providing for the worthy, capable young people of the race constant, respectable and remunerative employment.

BUSINESS MANAGER MISSISSIPPI ODD FELLOW.

In addition to conducting the affairs of his office as Secretary and Treasurer of the Odd Fellows' Benefit Association, he is the Business Manager of the Mississippi Odd Fellow, a weekly publication that is run for the benefit of the order. It is a sprightly, newsy paper, which carries the welcome tidings of Odd Fellowship throughout the whole land, and many copies of that paper are carried across the sea to circulate in the British Isles. It is a wholesome sheet, and serves well its purpose of showing to the world the best features of the giant organization that is known, respected and honored in every nook and corner of the State of Mississippi.

THE MASTER MIND OF THE ODD FELLOWS OF MISSISSIPPI.

The capable and efficient manner in which the able and accomplished professor managed the affairs of his office has commended him to all the powers that be in the organization. In the year of 1904 at Philadelphia he was elected First Grand Auditor to look into the accounts of the three hundred thousand Odd Fellows that constitute the fraternity of the whole country. He was for two years Deputy Grand Master of the State of Mississippi, and he filled the office of Grand Secretary for one year. His is the master financial mind of the Odd Fellows' fraternity, and in looking after its interests he has not only penetrated every section of the State, but he has traveled extensively all over the United States.

A POWER IN FRATERNITY RANKS.

The worthy professor is not only one of the most conspicuous leaders connected with the Odd Fellows of the State of Mississippi, but he is also powerful in the councils of some of the other fraternal organizations of the State. He is Most Eminent Supervisor of the United Reformers of the State of Mississippi, a benevo-

lent society that was organized in the year of 1903, and whose membership in the State has increased to 7,000. It is a lively, progressive organization, and seems destined to give some of the other societies a close run for popular favor. He is also a member of the Supreme Board of the Independent Order of the Sons and Daughters of Jacob of America. He is a prominent member of the Masonic fraternity, the Knights of Pythias, the Tabernacles, and he is a patron of the Eastern Star Chapter. In order that the able professor might be able, figuratively, to soar into the empyrean heights, he cast his fraternal lot with the Eagles. He has a connection with the Household of Ruth. It is probable that he is a member of all of the organizations that are in the State of Mississippi, and the writer may just as well make his membership in them all unanimous.

A MAN WITH A GREAT AND NOBLE WIFE.

On the 24th of August, in the year of 1880, Professor McKissack made the master business stroke of his life when he admitted to matrimonial and business partnership for life Miss Mary A. Exum of Yazoo City, Miss., and it is largely because of the possession of such a worthy and gifted wife that the professor has been able to make the wonderful headway that he has. He has no hesitation in admitting that his dear wife has been the real making of him, and that without her assistance and unselfish devotion for lo these many years, he never could have gained the degree of success that has crowned his efforts. She is an all-round woman and talented to an unusual degree. She is a graduate of Rust University, and was a teacher in the schools of the State of Mississippi for some time. She has always been prominent in religious and fraternity circles.

SHE REPRESENTED THE HOUSEHOLD OF RUTH IN EUROPE.

She is the only colored woman of America that ever represented the Household of Ruth in Europe, which she did in the year of 1907. She has been repeatedly invited since that time to return to Europe and work for the order in England. While she was visiting in England she was highly honored because of her talents and her official capacity, and some of the people of the highest rank were proud of the opportunity to do her honor. She was at her best as a representative of her race in a foreign land, and she did much in her capital speeches to elevate her race in the estimation of the world. She is a peerless woman, and has proven to be the real power behind the throne of her distinguished husband. She has

for most of the time remained at home and looked after the affairs of her husband, and she has shown an executive ability of the highest order in the management of his business affairs during his absence. She has played her part well, and no one will more gladly and more proudly testify to this fact than her grateful and popular husband, Professor E. H. McKissack.

A. C. McKISSACK, A.M., M.D., JACKSON, MISS.

Two children have blessed their married life. Their talented son, A. C. McKissack, A.M., M.D., is one of the leading young physicians of the State of Mississippi. He is a graduate of Meharry Medical College, as well as an alumnus of the college department of Rust University, from which he received his master's degree. He has enjoyed all the advantages that a young man could have, and he seems to have made the best use of them. He is Grand Medical Examiner of the Odd Fellows of Mississippi, and he holds a similar professional relationship with the Independent Order of Sons and Daughters of Jacob of America, the Eagles, and the United Reformers. He is also Supreme Medical Director of the Colored Woodmen. He is a first-class medical man, and has licenses to practice his profession in the States of Tennessee and Mississippi. He has one of the most elegant homes in the thriving and progressive city of Jackson, Miss. In the year of 1908 Dr. McKissack was united in marriage to Miss Margaret Atwood of Jackson, Miss., a talented and accomplished daughter of Hon. L. K. Atwood, one of the leading lawyers and bankers of the State of Mississippi. Dr. McKissack has the ability to make his way and is equipped as are very few of the young men of the race. He has been an exemplary son since the earliest period of his youth, and there is nothing reasonable in his father's power that he would not do for his son. The son has ever been noted for his veracity and honesty in his dealings with his father, and it is but natural that the father should take much pride in these two most sterling traits in his son's character. The doctor is a chip off the paternal block, and will weather the gales of life in the manner of his distinguished father. A little cherub now graces the home of the medical son, and will contribute years of pleasure and happiness to the lives of its dear and devoted parents.

A LEADING FINANCIER AND BUSINESS MAN.

Professor McKissack is reputed to be one of the wealthiest men of the race in the State of Mississippi. His financial strength is so great that there is hardly a strong financial institution of the

State that would fail to welcome his strength and solicit his patronage. He is a stockholder of the Merchants & Farmers' Bank of Holly Springs, Miss.; he is a stockholder of the Oil Mill & Ice Factory Company of Holly Springs, Miss.; he is a stockholder of the Standard Life Insurance Company of Atlanta, Georgia. He is the Second Vice-President of the American Savings Bank & Trust Company of Jackson, Miss.; he is a director of the Southern Bank, of Jackson, Miss., one of the strong banking institutions of the State; he is General Manager of the Union Guaranty Insurance Company of the State of Mississippi, a corporation recently organized with headquarters in Jackson, Miss., and capitalized at \$50,000. It is a corporation that will engage in a general bonding business, and in connection it will conduct an accident and life insurance department on a parity with the leading companies of the United States. It has four thousand men under bond to transact in a proper manner the business of the company, and it will maintain offices in all parts of the State. It will not limit its operations to the State of Mississippi alone, but it will compete for the patronage of the race throughout the whole of the United States. The future of this great company is bright, and its financial solidarity is such as cannot be gainsaid by any one that is acquainted with the class of the solid men that are connected with it.

ONE OF THE WEALTHIEST MEN OF HIS STATE.

Professor McKissack is one of the largest owners of realty in the State of Mississippi. His home residence at Holly Springs is one of the most attractive in the State, and is provided with every modern convenience and possible comfort. In addition to his magnificent residence in his home town, he is the owner of ten tenement houses in the same town. He has some nice property in the city of Memphis, Tenn., while in the city of Jackson, Miss., he is the proud owner of nearly twenty-four pieces of improved property for tenement purposes. This number does not include a substantial two-story store that has recently been built at considerable cost.

STARTED LATE, BUT OVERTOOK ALL.

The distinguished subject of this sketch was born poor and had to make his way through life without the assistance and encouragement of a father. He is truly the architect of his own fortune, and it has been the privilege of few men to erect for themselves

in life such an imposing and enduring monument. Every other public leader in his State had a distinct advantage of Professor McKissack because of the fact that the subject started so late in life to educate himself. He was grown and married long before he graduated from Rust University, but his gigantic strides up the hill of success have enabled him to overtake and pass nearly every man who had started out before him. The greatest rewards of life are not given to the swift nor to the fortunate, but to them that are inherently deserving and that hold out to the end.

AN ESTIMATE.

Professor McKissack is an able educator, a great financier, a forceful and resourceful business man, a strong and independent thinker, and a man of pronounced sanity in all things pertaining to the welfare of the race. He is an experienced and convincing orator, with a predilection for thought rather than sound, and he carries in his public addresses at all times something that is well worth the attention of thinking men. He is an all-round man of affairs, and can give a splendid account of himself in whatever capacity he may be called upon to serve the welfare of his fellow-citizens. Notwithstanding his placid and thoughtful exterior, he is a very witty and jovial man, and in the society of congenial friends he is the prince of mirthfulness and good humor. He is a man that is loyal to the interests of his race, and the many years of faithful service that he has given to the betterment and uplift of the race may be regarded as convincing evidence of his fidelity.



E. W. Irving, M.D., Memphis, Tenn.



IN PREHISTORIC times there lived a race of people known to us of the present day as Mound Builders. They were people whose lives were shrouded in a mystery so deep that a period of a thousand years has not sufficed to penetrate the veil; nor would we of the present day know that such a race of people ever existed if it were not for the vast mounds that they built, which stand today as mute testimonials of their strange tastes and herculean efforts. In some of the States of the Middle West these mounds are quite numerous, and it was in the vicinity of one of these mounds near the city of Circleville, in the State of Ohio, that the able, genial and popular subject of this narrative first saw the light of day August 9, 1869.

A GRADUATE OF CIRCLEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL.

In his youth the subject enjoyed the best advantages that the great State of Ohio could afford through the medium of her public schools. He graduated from the Circleville High School in 1889 with the honor of class orator. The city of Circleville has always held a leading rank in educational matters in the great State of Ohio, and the Circleville High School ranked first in excellence among the high schools of that State. This fact gives a faint idea of the splendid educational advantages that were enjoyed by the worthy doctor in his youth. His ability and popularity while a member of the Circleville High School were the means of gaining for him a scholarship in Duckworth Business College, Columbus, Ohio, from which institution he received his diploma of graduation.

EARLY SHOWED A TALENT FOR ORATORY.

While he was a student in school he was the recipient of many honors because of his exceptional talents. On account of his excellence, both in scholarship and in oratory, he was chosen by his class to deliver the class oration on the occasion of his graduation. From his earliest youth he exhibited unusual aptitude for oratory, and his later life has only added to his former fame. On several demonstrative occasions that are memorable in the history of Memphis, Dr. Irving ably sustained his reputation as a platform orator, and on the occasion of the visit of President Theodore Roosevelt to the city of Memphis, the doctor reflected credit on the whole race by the masterly manner in which he delivered the welcome address to the Chief Magistrate of the nation. His style of oratory



E. W. IRVING, M. D.

is pleasing, his presence commanding, and his size of such magnitude as to give weight to his utterance.

A SCHOOLMASTER IN THE SOUTH.

After receiving his diploma of graduation from Duckworth Business College, he was induced by a former teacher, Professor A. D. Delaney, to go South for the purpose of taking charge of Ward Academy, Natchez, Mississippi. He yielded to the request and went to Natchez. It was the first time that he had ever beheld the South, with its vast colored population and inexhaustible resources, and his eyes were distended with amazement. In his narrow sphere in the little town of Circleville he had not even dreamed of the race's possibilities in the Southland, and understood nothing along that line until he first put foot on Southern soil. In his new life as schoolmaster he showed ability of the highest order, and so acceptable and effective was his work that in the course of a principalship of barely three years, the enrollment of the school increased from fifty to five hundred pupils, a magical increase for such a short time.

SAW A COLORED PHYSICIAN FOR THE FIRST TIME.

Because of his success in the school room and his general popularity outside of the same, he might have continued indefinitely in pedagogical harness if he had not upon his arrival in the city of Natchez seen a colored physician. He had never seen before such a wonderful being as a colored doctor, and the very presence of such an unheard-of being opened up to him a vista of possibility of which he had never even dreamed. The new species of being was none other than Dr. J. B. Banks, then as now, one of the most capable physicians and also one of the wealthiest citizens of Natchez. As soon as Dr. Irving had made the acquaintance of Dr. Banks he became obsessed with the idea of becoming a physician. This idea was a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night, and there was nothing to do but give full rein to this irresistible determination.

A GRADUATE OF MEHARRY MEDICAL COLLEGE.

Having successfully taught in the city of Natchez for about three years, he abandoned the profession of teaching to enter Meharry Medical College, Nashville, Tenn., in the year of 1891, but he was able to attend only one year at that time. The next two years he spent as a commercial salesman, traveling for a dry goods

house in Cincinnati. After this experience he returned to Meharry Medical College and graduated from that institution with the honor of salutatorian in the year of 1897.

BEGAN HIS PROFESSIONAL CAREER IN MEMPHIS.

In the year of his graduation he came to Memphis to locate and practice his profession. Since that time he has practiced his profession in Memphis, and has enjoyed a success that is nearly unique in the history of the medical practitioners in the city of Memphis. He had the intelligence and foresight to locate his office in a section of the city that was remote from the other physicians and a section in which there had never been located a physician of the race, and this location has proved to be a veritable gold mine to him in a professional way.

EXPERIENCED IN EXPERT MEDICAL TESTIMONY.

Among all classes he enjoys the reputation of being one of the best physicians in the city of Memphis, and his opinion in expert testimony has the weight of authority. As is known to many people, there arise countless numbers of damage suits brought by employes against employers for damages sustained while working in the service of the employers on railroads, in factories, in machine shops and in other fields of risk and danger. In every case expert medical testimony is sought, and Dr. Irving has been the central figure in a very large number of such cases. A conservative estimate of such cases is about one case per month.

THE WABASH SCREEN DOOR COMPANY VERSUS MARY LEWIS, ADMINISTRATRIX.

One of the most celebrated cases with which he was ever connected, and in which he gained undying fame for medical expertness, is in the case of the Wabash Screen Door Company versus Mary Lewis, administratrix of the estate of Dock Wright, deceased. In this particular case suit for fifteen thousand dollars in damages was brought by the said Mary Lewis, administratrix of the estate of Dock Wright, deceased, against the said Wabash Screen Door Company. Dr. Irving was the expert medical witness for the plaintiff, and as such he was compelled to break professional lances with the most learned and most skillful representatives of the white race in the city of Memphis. He was forced to combat opinion with the most erudite and the most expert physicians that the great financial resources of a giant corporation could employ. It was

truly a battle royal of the medical giants. Every phase of the case that could be remotely conjured up to promote the interest of either the plaintiff or the defendant was analyzed and laid bare. Learned counsel injected into the examination every question that their ingenuity could suggest in the vain attempt to disprove or refute the contention of Dr. Irving, the plaintiff's main reliance. The case was brought in the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth District, the Honorable Justice McCall presiding. Without going into tedious and exhausting details, it may be stated that the presiding justice bestowed a high compliment upon Dr. Irving on account of the high class medical knowledge he had shown in the examination of that case. The jury in the United States Court of Appeals returned a verdict in favor of the plaintiff, whereupon the defendant company appealed the case to the United States Supreme Court, which tribunal affirmed the decision of the lower court. The result of this celebrated case was a great triumph for the cause which Dr. Irving represented, and it proved not only his high medical status, but his great moral courage to fight for his cause against some of the foremost medical men of the present time. It must not be overlooked that no man can contest for supremacy with the gifted minds of the opposite race and carry off the palm of victory unless he is in every respect a high class physician.

MEDICAL EXAMINER FOR A LEADING INSURANCE COMPANY.

To give a faint idea of the extent to which Dr. Irving's ability is recognized, it is only necessary to state that he is the medical representative of the Continental Casualty Insurance Company of Chicago, Ill., and looks after the interests of the company in all damage suits that are brought against the company by its policyholders. This is an unusual honor, and such an honor as is conferred only upon the most skillful members of the medical profession. Dr. Irving is devoted to his profession, and his sole ambition is to make an immortal name in his profession.

AN ABLE BUSINESS MAN.

Not only is he a physician of the first rank, but he is a business man of ability and experience. He is a stockholder of the Fraternal Savings Bank & Trust Company of Memphis, Tenn.; he is a stockholder of the Solvent Savings Bank & Trust Company, and one of the pioneers that has piloted that institution over the shallow waters of distrust and discouragement to its present haven of success and prosperity. The doctor has some valuable property in the city of Memphis, his elegant and substantial residence being

nicely located and of the most desirable character from every standpoint. It would be a strange man indeed that such a beautiful and desirable home could not satisfy.



RESIDENCE OF E. W. IRVING, M.D.

HIS TALENTED AND DEVOTED WIFE.

It may be wondered why the doctor has been such a great success as a physician and has so far outstripped many others with even greater advantages in the race of life. The reason why is obvious. In addition to the doctor's extraordinary equipment of

brains and push, he has the inspiration of a loving and devoted wife, and one that is rare in her fidelity to her husband's interests. While she is supremely happy in her palatial home which the professional ability of her husband has made possible, she would be none the less happy in an humble cottage if it were necessary to do so in order to promote the welfare of her husband. She was a Miss Elvira A. Jones of Memphis, Tenn., to whose tender and loving care the fates, through the channel of matrimony, committed him August 9, 1899. She is a graduate of LeMoyne Normal Institute of Memphis, Tennessee, and a pianiste of experience and ability. She has since her girlhood been prominently connected with the social life of Memphis, and her name has ever been an open sesame to all that is best in upper class society.

A DESERVED TRIBUTE TO HIS MOTHER'S MEMORY.

Of course, the doctor loves his devoted wife and owes to her every appreciation for her fidelity and her sacrifices, but he cherishes the memory of his sainted mother, who was all to him that life could afford, and who now from her home in the skies daily transmits to him her prayers and her benedictions. Mrs. Mildred Johnson Irving, his lamented mother, was a native of the State of Virginia, and enjoyed the blessings of freedom from her birth. She was a woman that was far above the average in intelligence, and was entirely absorbed in the educational welfare of her children. Living in the North without the thousand advantages that are afforded by conditions in this Southland, the problem of educating her children and at the same time properly providing for them was a serious proposition, and taxed her ingenuity to the utmost. All the resources of her physical and mental being were brought into activity to solve the serious problems that confronted her alone. Inasmuch as her husband was an invalid and incapacitated to do his part, the whole responsibility for the maintenance of the family fell upon her faithful shoulders, and how well she did her part is shown in the lives of her children that are living today, respected and honored by all who know them. The fact is, she sacrificed her life on the altar of her children's welfare. Under her kind and fostering care the home life of her children was made ideal. She was not only a mother, but was a companion for her children, and enjoyed their perfect confidence. Sun, moon and stars may lose their splendor, but the bereaved son and daughters of Mrs. Mildred Johnson Irving will forever hold her memory in grateful and loving remembrance.

A TALENTED AND RESPECTED FAMILY.

The enduring monument to the life of Mrs. Mildred Johnson Irving was the sacrifice that she made in behalf of the education of her children. All of them were given the blessings of a first-class education. The doctor himself is a graduate of the Circleville High School and of Duckworth Business College, Columbus, Ohio. Miss Minnie M. Irving, now Mrs. Minnie M. Clowers, the estimable wife of Dr. J. T. Clowers, of Wynne, Arkansas, is a graduate of one of the departments of Wilberforce University, and was for some time an honored worker in the teachers' profession. Miss Grace M. Irving, now Mrs. Grace M. Shelby, is a graduate of the Springfield High School, of Springfield, Ohio. She also had the honor of teaching school for some time. Miss Maybelle C. Irving is a graduate of the Circleville High School, and is now one of the most efficient teachers in the city public schools of Memphis. She is the youngest of the family, and has many years yet at her disposal in the teachers' profession before she will have reached the stage of apprehension that sooner or later seizes the majority of the gentler sex.

AN ESTIMATE.

Next to his devoted wife, medicine is the doctor's heart. He thinks medicine, talks medicine, dreams medicine, practices medicine and occasionally takes a dose of medicine. He is an honored member of the State Medical Association of Colored Physicians, Dentists, Surgeons and Pharmacists. He is a skillful surgeon, and has wrought some great results in the domain of operative surgery. He is an ideal man for a physician, because he is not only an able medical practitioner, but he is a good mixer, and has the faculty of making lasting friends wherever he goes. He is genial, companionable and popular, and his legion of friends consider him the essence of affability.

The race needs more men of the character of the subject of this sketch, for it takes members of the race of his kind to show to the humbler classes that a man can be highly educated, greatly respected and reasonably wealthy without either having the big head or a diseased imagination. Dr. Irving is the people's doctor because he has what the people want, namely, professional skill, a charming personality and a heart and mind devoted to the welfare of the masses of the race.

Rev. T. J. Searcy, D.D., Memphis, Tenn.

PRESIDENT TENNESSEE BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION AND PASTOR
METROPOLITAN BAPTIST CHURCH.



HE popularity of some people is evanescent. It buds forth like the sweet-scented rose at dewy morn, only to sicken and die long ere the welcome shades of evening fall about it. On the other hand, there is a sort of popularity that grows with the progress of time and, like Tennyson's brook, goes on forever. It is a permanent sort of popularity that is produced and intensified by the worthy character of the man, and not by any selfish ambition on his part to win popular favor. There is presented to the readers of this volume the brief life story of one of the most deserving and one of the most popular men that ever lived in the State of Tennessee, and a man whose great popularity has been attested by the unanimous voice of the members of his denomination who have been pleased to confer upon the subject every honor that is in their power.

BORN ON TENNESSEE SOIL.

Rev. Thomas Jefferson Searcy is a native of the Old Volunteer State, and first beheld the light of day in Rutherford County, November 4, 1852. He was born a slave, but he feels rather lonesome because he can hardly find anybody else that had a similar experience. It has long since been the fad of many, who were really born in slavery, to have no distinct recollection of their sad experience, but the reverend subject of this sketch has no hesitation in proclaiming to the world that he was born in slavery, and that he was once in the eyes of the law of the land a mere chattel, instead of a human being.

HIS LITERARY TRAINING.

A boy in the beginning of his teens at the close of the Civil War, he did not enjoy the educational advantages that are at present the privilege of nearly every boy in the land. His early life covered the benighted age of the race, and few were the fortunate ones that enjoyed the best advantages for intellectual culture. The subject was born on a farm and had to take his educational chances just as does the typical farmer boy. He had to get a catch-as-catch-can sort of education, and this mode of acquiring knowledge has been so deeply implanted in his character that he has ever since been catching at every opportunity for self-improvement. He has ever been an inveterate student, and by his own



REV. T. J. SEARCY, D. D.

diligence and perseverance he has acquired an amount and a variety of knowledge that would put to shame many a college graduate. In the year of 1873 he matriculated at Roger Williams University, Nashville, Tenn., and remained a student of that grand old institution for nine years, or until he received his diploma of graduation. While the subject is an alumnus of Roger Williams University, yet he is alumnus of a university by far greater in the scope of its beneficence, the University of Life, in which institution he has taken all of the degrees of life's curriculum.

IN THE SACRED CALLING OF THE MINISTRY.

While the subject was a student at Roger Williams University he received the call to the pastorate of the First Baptist Church at Brownsville, Tenn., which he accepted. He was ordained in the gospel ministry May 7, 1883, and for nearly three decades he has expounded the Word of Life and exhorted sinners to repentance. His ministerial life has been entirely restricted to the State of Tennessee, and it has been his good fortune to fill some of the leading charges in the State. No other minister in the State of Tennessee stands higher in the councils of the Baptist denomination of the State, and no other minister has been more highly honored.

PRESIDENT TENNESSEE BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION.

At this time the worthy subject is the most highly honored member of the Baptist denomination of the State of Tennessee, for he is the exalted President of the Baptist State Convention of Tennessee. This is the second time that he has been called by the great Baptist majority of his State to the presidency of the State Convention. As President of the convention he has a large and extensive field for the exercise of his versatile powers. He is a matchless, sagacious leader of the people, and was never so well equipped intellectually and morally as he is now. He has a personal following that is State-wide, and his administration has already accomplished great things for the cause of the denomination and the spiritual uplift of the masses of the race.

HIGH OFFICIAL IN DENOMINATIONAL CIRCLES.

The subject is not only prominent in the councils of the Baptist denomination of his own State, but he is a power in the National Baptist Convention, and is one of that august body's Vice-Presidents. In the deliberations of that body his clarion voice has ever been heard on the side of peace and Christian love. He is one of the pillars of the convention, and has helped to make it the grandest and most powerful religious body in the world. He is

Chairman of the National Educational Board of the Baptist National Convention. He is also Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Howe Institute and Business Manager of the Signal, which is the official organ of the Baptists of West Tennessee.

PASTOR OF METROPOLITAN BAPTIST CHURCH.

The subject is pastor of the Metropolitan Baptist Church, which has one of the largest congregations in the city of Memphis, Tenn. He has a large and enthusiastic following, and enjoys the respect, esteem, confidence and love of his people as few ministers of the gospel are capable of gaining. The church has a membership of nearly seven hundred and an edifice that is valued at over \$20,000.

AS AN ORATOR.

The subject is one of the most gifted orators in the ranks of the ministers of his denomination, and is easily one of the oratorical stars on every occasion that he may grace. It is doubtful if there is a more popular orator with the masses in this whole country. There seems not to be an admonition or appeal to his hearers for which he can not find an illustration in life. His is the oratory for results. If he were a general in war and should harangue his soldiers to sack or lay pillage to a town, his appeal would be immediately carried into execution. If the waters of sedition and revolt were rising to their flood tide he could pour on them the oil of peace and make them be still. He has a superabundance of homely common sense and plantation philosophy, and between these two means he usually succeeds in reaching the understanding of the humblest people and getting the results desired. He is often flowery, and when such is the case his rhetorical florescence is simply overwhelming. He is sound in his philosophy and is never identified with anything but sensible and sane principles. He is witty, serious and grave at will, and can play with master hand the whole gamut of human feeling. He is a favorite as a general orator, and is often sought for speeches on all subjects and on all kinds of occasions.

HAS PREPARED FOR THE RAINY DAY.

Dr. Searcy has worked hard and honestly won some of the most substantial rewards of life. He has proved himself to be a great preacher, but he is quite as capable a business man as he is a preacher. His home is one of the most attractive in the city of Memphis, Tenn., and is estimated to be worth \$6,500 or more. In addition to his splendid residence he is the owner of one hundred acres of fertile and productive land on President's Island, Tennessee. Also, he is the owner of some unimproved property in the

city of Memphis. He is Secretary of Mt. Carmel Cemetery Company of Memphis, and largely interested in it financially. He is well prepared for the rainy day, should it ever be the will of Providence for it to come his way.

HIS FAITHFUL, DEVOTED WIFE.

There are two reasons why Roger Williams University will ever be dear to the memory of the subject of this sketch. First, it was the intellectual inspiration of his life, for in its classic and hallowed walls he spent many of the most profitable days of his life



RESIDENCE OF REV T. J. SEARCY

in preparation for his present life of service and usefulness to his people. Secondly, it was in that same dear school that he first became thoroughly acquainted with his future wife and perceived in her those admirable qualities that would make her the queen of his home. December 15, 1886, Dr. T. J. Searcy was united in the holy bonds of wedlock to Miss Ella F. Ashford, of Courtland, Ala. She received her higher educational training at Roger Williams

University, Nashville, Tennessee, and among the multiplicity of her innate charms and accomplishments while a student at the university was the particular one that did the work to Dr. Searcy's heart and won for her one of the most gifted men in the ranks of the race and, better than all, one of the best men in the world. She was one of the leading teachers in the schools of Alabama and Tennessee for some time, but she resigned the responsibilities of a public servant in order to become mistress of a kindergarten of her own. Four boys and one girl have blessed the union of Dr. and Mrs. Searcy. Mrs. Eugenia Beatrice McAllister is a graduate of Howe Institute, Memphis, Tenn., and is the wife of Prof. C. L. McAllister. Mr. Lucian J. Searcy is a graduate of Fisk University, class of June, 1911, and he is a musician of unusual ability.

A GREAT RACE LEADER.

The subject is a born leader of his race, for he is endowed with every natural and acquired requisite for successful leadership. He is at all times a level-headed, sensible, discreet man, incapable of losing his mental equilibrium. He knows the conditions affecting his race in this Southland and the exact manner in which to lead his people in the paths of peace, progress and happiness. In his community he has always exercised a restraining influence on the people of both races in the time of race strife and excitement, and his judgment has ever merited the endorsement of the conservative and thinking element of people. He is acquainted with the Southern white man from every angle, and knows just what steps to take in dealing with him in order to get results. It is his experience that the Southern white man is, at heart, one of the best men in the world, and is sincerely desirous of the progress of the Negro race and that the Negroes that prove themselves worthy will have the care, encouragement and protection of the best element of the dominant race. In his own personal experience with the white people of his city he has usually gotten everything in reason that he has ever sought, and he has had countless evidences of the sincere interest and friendship of the white people among whom his lot has been cast since the day of his birth in the Old Volunteer State. Dr. Searcy not only knows the white man, but he knows considerable about colored people, too, for when he was a very small boy he used to play with other small colored boys. Since he is perfectly acquainted with the members of both races in this Southland, there is no reason why he should not be the matchless race leader that he is. He is an extraordinary man, and it has been his good fortune, through the instrumentality of Providence, to have accomplished an untold amount of good, not only for his own people, but for the cause of human progress the world over.

C. W. Allen, Mobile, Ala.

FUNERAL DIRECTOR AND EMBALMER AND SECRETARY-TREASURER
MASONIC ENDOWMENT FUND.



AS A RULE, a prophet is without honor in his own country, but this declaration is far from being a fact in the case of the serviceable and popular subject of this sketch, whose life story forms the burden of this narrative, for no other man of the race in the city of Mobile, Ala., be he native born or otherwise, has been more highly honored or shown himself to be more deserving of trust, confidence and honor.

A NATIVE OF MOBILE, ALA.

The worthy and useful subject of this sketch is a native of the city of Mobile, and was born October 17, 1872. Unlike the majority of men that have risen to place and prominence in the domain of church or state, the subject can not claim the pride of birth on a farm; nor can he claim an experience with any of the hardships that are incident to farming life. In his case, at least, it has been demonstrated that it is not necessary to be born on a farm and inured to its hardships in order to attain to the highest degree of service and usefulness to one's fellow citizens and country.

HAS A HEAVY CLAIM ON MOBILE.

The fact that the subject is one of the worthy native sons of Mobile possibly accounts for the high esteem in which he is held by the citizens of Mobile. While the writer was in the city of Mobile for the first time, in the summer of 1910, the subject was absent from the city in attendance on his official business as one of the leading fraternity men of his State. The writer had, for this reason, an excellent opportunity to judge concerning the esteem in which the subject is held by the best people of his town, and from the experience of the writer there is reason to believe that no other man in the city of Mobile stands higher in public esteem than he.

HIS EDUCATION.

The parents of the subject were in most humble circumstances, and thus could not give to their son the educational advantages that they would have been too glad to do if they had been able. The subject's education was gained largely by his own earnest efforts and hard work. He was educated in the public schools of Mobile, Ala., and at Emerson Institute of the same city. Emerson Institute



C. W. ALLEN

is one of the pioneer educational institutions of the race in the city of Mobile, and has done much to improve the intellectual and moral life of that community. This school was long ago established by the American Missionary Association, and has been the only alma mater of many of the worthiest and most successful men and women of the city of Mobile. The subject has not the honor of a diploma from this worthy institution, but he gained in its hallowed walls an inspiration to accomplish something worthy in life.

EARLY OUT IN LIFE.

Mr. Allen started out in life early to make an honest living. At the age of fifteen years he took up the responsibilities of a wage-earner. Beginning at the humblest stage of menial service, he gradually worked his way up to employment in the government service in the position of carrier in the Mobile postoffice. The subject served as a carrier in the Mobile postoffice for ten years, and made a record for high class efficiency. While serving in the Mobile postoffice he had the honor of representing the Mobile Letter Carriers' Association three different times at the National Conventions of Letter Carriers at its sessions in Denver, Col., Chicago, Ill., and New York City.

A VETERAN REAL ESTATE MAN.

The subject is a veteran dealer in real estate, and in co-partnership with his confidential friend, Mr. James T. Peterson, he successfully engaged in the realty business for several years. The firm operated under the name of Peterson & Allen, and it was one of the leading real estate firms in the State of Alabama.

A NEW UNDERTAKER IN MOBILE.

On the 10th of November, 1904, the subject, in partnership with Mr. Harney, purchased the undertaking firm of A. N. Johnson, which at that time was one of the most complete and one of the costliest funeral establishments in the South. Since purchasing this premier funeral directory they have added to their equipment, modernized it and developed it along progressive and up-to-date lines, until now it is second to few, if any, in this whole country.

ITS VOLUME OF BUSINESS.

In the year of 1909 the undertaking firm of Allen & Harney did a business to the value of \$25,000. In the city of Mobile the

company had the honor of interring one-third of the mortality list of the city, irrespective of race. As the population of the city of Mobile, by the census of 1910, was over fifty thousand, it is possible to make a reasonable calculation as to the amount of business that was done by this enterprising firm.

THE COMPANY'S CAPITAL, EQUIPMENT AND SERVICE.

The value of the undertaking establishment of the firm of Allen & Harney is \$21,000. Its equipment lacks nothing that can serve the comfort and welfare of the company's patrons. It has four first-class funeral cars, five landau carriages, four buggies, one ambulance, one casket and flower wagon, one dead wagon, and eighteen horses. It has convenient and well-appointed stock rooms, containing paraphernalia of all kinds to the value of more than \$4,000. The company is so modern and up-to-date in its equipment and facilities that it can satisfy the wishes of the greatest dignitary in the State. "A maximum of service for a minimum of cost" is the business maxim of this premier funeral establishment of the race, and it is the consensus of opinion on the part of the people of Mobile that the company carries out its business maxim to the letter.

THE MOBILE WEEKLY PRESS.

The company has an unusual side line. In addition to its regular undertaking establishment it publishes the Mobile Weekly Press, a newspaper that has circulated for sixteen years in the interest of the race, and is considered the only weekly organ of importance in the city of Mobile. It has a circulation of 2,500, and is read and appreciated by all classes of people, not only in the city of Mobile, but throughout the State of Alabama. It has an equipment that would be a credit to any first-class newspaper plant of the race anywhere in the land. There are installed in the printing department a newspaper press of large size and two job presses, all run by electricity. Not only does this enterprising firm provide the best newspaper for the colored people of Mobile, but it has the honor of doing most of their job printing. This department of the company is invaluable as an advertising medium, and one of the best assets of the company. The value of the printing department alone is \$3,500.

SECRETARY-TREASURER MASONIC ENDOWMENT FUND.

Not only is the subject one of the premier business men of his native State, but he is most prominent in fraternal circles. He is

Secretary-Treasurer of the Masonic Endowment Fund for the State of Alabama, and is thus the fifth wheel in the affairs of that great organization. In his official capacity of Secretary-Treasurer of the Endowment Fund he has proven to be a source of beneficence to the order that cannot be estimated. The endowment department is the bulwark of fraternity life, and affords the same kind of protection to its patrons as a policy in a life insurance company. It is the one feature of fraternity life that shows both the business character and philanthropic spirit of the organization, and it has already become the dominating principle of fraternity life. The popular subject of this sketch, in the performance of his duties, travels all over the State of Alabama, and is one of the best known men in the State. He is the messenger of protection to the widows and orphans of the order, and is a most welcome visitor to the homes where bereavement and sorrow dwell uncomforted. As financial head of the endowment fund, the subject's annual report for the fiscal year ending in 1910 showed a total collection of \$75,000 and total disbursements of \$70,000 for the same time. The subject has proved to be one of the most efficient men in the ranks of the order, and eminently worthy of the exalted office which he has held so long and so faithfully. He is also one of the leading members of the Knights of Pythias and Odd Fellows of the State of Alabama.

REGARDS HIS POLITICAL RIGHTS.

The worthy subject has not slept on his political rights and opportunities. He has ever regarded the exercise of the political franchise as the most sacred prerogative of citizenship, and he thinks that he had just as well not live at all if he must be a political cipher in the affairs of the nation in which he enjoys the rights of citizenship. In the true sense of the term, no man is a citizen that does not manifest any interest in the machinery of government. He believes that his political welfare, just as his undertaking business and his other material affairs, needs his personal attention or it will suffer. He does not believe in jeopardizing his political rights by inactivity, nor will he surrender to the hands of others this most precious birthright of citizenship. The subject is one of the leading political spirits of the State of Alabama. He is a member of the Republican State Executive Committee, and had the honor of being a delegate to the National Republican Convention which met in Chicago, Ill., in 1908.

HIS WIFE A PROMINENT EDUCATOR.

As soon as the worthy subject had attained to his majority he decided to marry and settle down to a life of responsibility and

duty. He was not born so rich as he was born lucky, for such indeed must have been the case when he succeeded in winning the affections and hand of his estimable and talented wife. The subject's friends can not doubt the wisdom of his judgment, especially after having used it so wisely in the selection of a companion for life. On the 6th of June, 1893, the subject led to the altar Miss Josephine Blackledge of Mobile, Ala. She is a graduate of the Mobile Colored High School, and was also a student of Emerson Institute of the same city. She is a woman of the greatest intelligence and influence in her community. She is one of the useful and serviceable women of the race, and has done much for the welfare and uplift of the race. She is one of the leading educators of the race in the city of Mobile, and the sphere of her influence has even spread beyond the borders of her native city and State.

Mrs. Allen was an honored teacher in the Mobile Colored High School for three years. In the year of 1898 she organized the widely known private school, the Josephine Allen Private School. The growth of this school has been phenomenal in every respect. Not only has it grown in numerical strength up to 350 pupils, but its sphere of influence has correspondingly increased, until its work has become of interest to no inconsiderable number of the best people of Mobile. In the management and instruction of the pupils of her school she employs four teachers to assist her. While in the city of Mobile the writer heard many most creditable reports concerning the splendid character of the work that is being done by Mrs. Allen in her school, and the writer is glad to know that the city of Mobile has such a capable, enterprising and splendidly prepared educator to look after the private education of the race in that city. In the final analysis the private school will afford the best opportunity for the higher education of the youth of the race, and it is well that this progressive educator has taken the initiative in founding a school that will in the future, as well as in the present, mean so much for the intellectual and moral uplift of the youth of the race.

A WEALTHY, PROGRESSIVE CITIZEN.

The subject is not only one of the foremost men of his State in fraternal circles, but he stands high in the business and financial world. He is the owner of ten pieces of improved property in the city of Mobile, and this property is of considerable value. Not only has he a substantial home in the city of Mobile, but he has a residence on Portersville Bay, Coden, Ala., a distance of twenty-seven miles from the city of Mobile. The subject is one of the coming wealthy men of the city of Mobile, and there is no better

demonstration of the truth of this prediction than the remarkable progress that he has already made. He is growing by leaps and bounds, not only in the goods of this world, but in the esteem and confidence of his fellow-citizens.

HAS A FINE SON.

The subject is the proud father of a fine son, who is now sixteen years old. Master Allen is now a student of Fisk University, Nashville, Tenn., and bids fair to be a worthy successor to his dear father. It affords quite an opportunity for thought to contrast the father's opportunities with those of his son when the father was at the age of the talented son. At the age of sixteen years the son, because of the intelligence and wealth of the father, is enjoying a white boy's opportunities, but the father at the son's age had quit school to enter the great university of life and hard work to prepare the way for his son. It is the hope of the writer that the son will so well use his opportunities that he may be as great a benefactor to those who will follow him as the worthy father has been a source of care, protection and love to the son.

A HIGH CLASS MAN.

The subject is not only one of the first men of the State of Alabama in usefulness, popularity and high character, but he is a fine specimen of physical and intellectual manhood. He is the essence of affability and kindness and the personification of liberality. He is an organizer and a man of splendid executive ability. As a financier he has few superiors, if any, and his administration of affairs, both fraternal and personal, has demonstrated the fact that he is an extraordinary business man. The name of Allen stands for a great deal, not only in the city of Mobile, but all over the State of Alabama, and the writer is glad of the opportunity to inspire the youth of the race with his bright example of success.



A. D. Byas, M.D., Memphis, Tenn.

PRESIDENT NORTH MEMPHIS DRUG COMPANY.



MODESTY in either man or woman is one of the most admirable traits of character, whether it be seen in connection with high mental or moral endowment or in the material walks of life. Therefore, it is a delight to see becoming modesty in a man, notwithstanding the fact that he has achieved success of an unusual character along more than one line and mainly by his own efforts. A worthy example of this class of successful men is the well-known physician and business man, Dr. A. D. Byas, whose life story forms the burden of this narrative.

A NATIVE SON OF MISSISSIPPI.

The subject of this sketch first saw the light of day near Kosciusko, Mississippi, May 9, 1871. He was born on a farm and lived amidst a farming environment until he had attained to his majority. A product of the State of Mississippi, he has carried with him, wherever fortune has impelled him, those qualities of body and mind which are so evident in the native son of that commonwealth and which confer upon him prominence and leadership in every worthy department of life.

HIS DEAR PARENTS.

The parents of the subject are still living, and it is their happy fortune to realize in the successful lives of their children the answer to their many prayers. Mr. James Byas and his faithful life companion, Mrs. Laura C. Byas, are living in the same old homestead in which were born their children, and from which most of them have gone out into the busy world to give an account of themselves in the walks of man. These devoted parents were born in the days of slavery, but they had enough of instinctive knowledge to appreciate the value of education and to try to give to each of their children every educational advantage that was in their power. In spite of their great struggle and sacrifice to rear and educate their children, they managed by systematic economy and thrift to accumulate some of the goods of this world, for the father is the proud owner of about five hundred acres of farm land, and is regarded as one of the most successful farmers of his community.



A. D. BYAS, M. D.

HIS LITERARY TRAINING.

The worthy subject is the second link in the family chain of twelve children, nine of whom were boys, and he is the eldest now living. In his youth he attended the district schools around Kosciusko, Miss., and continued in them until he had advanced to the eighth or ninth grade. Determined to prepare himself the better for the exigencies of life, the subject decided to go off to college, so in the autumn of 1888 he matriculated as a student of Rust University, Holly Springs, Miss. For seven long years he was identified with the student life of that institution, and imbibed much of that inspiration that has counted so heavily toward his success. He persisted in his devotion to study and finally as a reward for his diligence and devotion he received his diploma of graduation from that institution in 1895.

MEDICINE ON THE BRAIN.

In his boyhood days on the farm the subject used to watch with longing eyes the old neighborhood doctor, riding along in solemn dignity with saddle bags dangling and playing a tattoo on the sides of his jaded and decrepit horse. That sight made an indelible impression on the subject's mind, and created in him the resolution some day to be a doctor himself. An additional stimulus for him to carry into fulfillment his resolution was the pledged agreement between him and one of his brothers that the subject would be a doctor, while the older brother would be a lawyer. At that time the subject had never seen a Negro doctor, and for that reason his resolution was the more creditable.

A SCHOOLMASTER FOR YEARS.

The subject began his career as a schoolmaster in Attala County, Miss., when he was nineteen years old and continued chiefly in summer sessions during his whole period of attendance at Rust University and the medical college from which he finally graduated. Not only did he teach school in the State of Mississippi, but he also kept school in Hardeman and Shelby Counties of the State of Tennessee. His career in the teachers' profession was brought to a close in the year of 1899.

A GRADUATE IN MEDICINE.

In the autumn of 1895 he first began to realize the dream of his youthful life to be a doctor by going off to Nashville, Tenn.,

and entering Meharry Medical College for the purpose of systematically studying the medical profession. He matriculated more on nerve than on money, but by teaching in vacations and denying himself many necessities he was able to graduate with honor in the class of 1899.

HIS SHINGLE OUT IN SUNNY WEST TENNESSEE.

Having received his diploma of graduation from Meharry Medical College in 1899, the subject chose sunny West Tennessee as the theater on whose stage he was to play his medical part. He located in the neighborhood of Benjestown, Tenn., and practiced his profession there for five or six years before moving to the city of Memphis in 1905. The doctor had the largest general practice in his section of the county when he was located at Benjestown, and prospered both professionally and financially. In the year of 1905 he moved to the city of Memphis, where the opportunities for professional success would be much greater than in a strictly rural community, and the wisdom of his action has long since been demonstrated.

A FIRST-CLASS PHYSICIAN.

Since beginning the practice of medicine the subject has gained a gratifying success. He is one of the leading physicians of Memphis, and has a host of admirers, both of his professional skill and his affable personality. He stands on a parity with the most capable physicians of Memphis, and his expert opinions have the weight of authority. He has an extensive practice, both in the city proper and in its environs, and he is one of the busiest medical men in his community.

A FINE FAMILY OF BROTHERS AND SISTERS.

In very few families of the race are found so many talented and ambitious brothers and sisters as are found in the family of the subject. When the lowly origin of their parents is considered and their own lack of educational advantages known, these same dear parents have erected for themselves an enduring monument. Dr. J. V. Byas, a brother of the subject, is a practicing physician of Millington, Tenn. He is a graduate of the class of 1909 at Meharry Medical College, and is having a success among his people that is truly inspiring. Thomas H. Byas is an embryo doctor, and is now a member of the senior class of Meharry Medical College. A. C. Byas is another prospective disciple of Aesculapius, and is a member of the junior class of Meharry Medical College.

Each one of these most excellent young men is a graduate of LeMoyne Normal Institute, Memphis, Tenn. Of his dear and devoted sisters, Miss Carrie L. Byas is a graduate of the Normal Department of Rust University and is now serving as Preceptress of Mississippi Industrial College, Holly Springs, Miss. Mrs. Lucy A. Byas Horton is a graduate of the normal course of Rust University, class of 1910, and served as teacher for some time. Miss Rosa Byas is now enjoying her student life at M. I. College, and bids fair to be as well prepared to succeed in life as her progressive and energetic brother, the subject himself. James Byas is a well-to-do farmer in his own right, and also attends to the farm of his father. Master Victor Byas, the youngest of the family, is a student of Central Mississippi College, Kosciusko, Miss.

A SPLENDID BUSINESS MAN.

If the phenomenal success that the subject has achieved in only a few years be considered, he has proved himself to be as splendid a business man as he is a physician. He has been practicing barely twelve years, yet he has accumulated quite a competency for life. He has two or three valuable farms in the Benjestown district, and he is the owner of several pieces of realty in the city of Memphis, Tenn. He is President of the North Memphis Drug Company, and one of the best type of the aggressive and progressive business man and medical practitioner.

HIS PALATIAL HOME AND DEVOTED WIFE.

There is one statement in this sketch that cannot be successfully contradicted, and that is the declaration that the subject of this sketch is the owner of one of the most elegant and one of the most substantial residences in the city of Memphis, Tenn. It is not necessary to add the stereotyped phrase, "irrespective of race," for it would be a credit to any member of the dominant race to own in his own right such a splendid and such a palatial home. It is a two-story building of eight rooms, the first story being veneered brick, the second story slate and the roof slate. The doctor erected this splendid home at a total cost of \$7,000 for the expressed purpose of giving to his dear, devoted and faithful wife some tangible evidence of his great love for her and his appreciation of her fidelity and assistance for the many years of their married life.

In the year of 1901 the worthy subject of this sketch wooed, won the heart of and led to the altar to be his bride Miss Lula McPherson, of Shelby County, Tenn., a talented and accomplished

teacher in the schools of Memphis. She is a graduate of LeMoyne Normal Institute, and spent one year of her life in the teachers' profession as a schoolmistress in the hallowed walls of her alma mater. The doctor feels deeply indebted to his dear wife for her assistance, and he does not believe that he could have done half so well without the benefit of her counsel, encouragement and assistance. In the planning and erection of their beautiful home her



RESIDENCE OF DR. A. D. BYAS

ideas and wants took precedence over every other suggestion, and much of the beauty of her home is attributed to her. In the possession of such a companion the subject is a very fortunate man. On the other hand, Mrs. Lula Byas was indeed a fortunate woman to have won the love, care and protection of such a worthy, deserving and capable husband as the man whose name graces the head of this sketch.

W. E. Mollison, Vicksburg, Miss.

ATTORNEY AND COUNSELLOR.



ANY great men have been connected with the history of the State of Mississippi, and this fact applies equally to the men of both races. In the pioneer days of the Commonwealth of Mississippi, when it was in the infancy of its Statehood, adventurous men from all parts of the Union were attracted to the State, drawn there by its fertile soil, its salubrious climate and its inexhaustible natural resources. Brilliant statesmen, gifted orators, renowned educators, pious and consecrated ministers of the gospel, great legal luminaries, political adventurers and general soldiers of fortune emigrated to the State as if in search of the modern El Dorado. In the days of reconstruction many of the ablest colored men of the North were attracted to the State because of the unusual opportunities for political preferment that were in the reach of talented men of the race. The State was a sort of political Mecca in those days, and much of the ability that was found in the colored ranks of the Republican party was brought into the State at that time.

A NATIVE SON OF MISSISSIPPI.

One of the native citizens of the State of Mississippi, and one who in ability, both natural and acquired, stands out pre-eminent in the ranks of the great men of the State, is Honorable W. E. Mollison, the able barrister of Vicksburg, Miss. He was born in Issaquena County, September 15, 1859. His ancestors had cut down the mighty monarchs of the virgin forests, subdued and exterminated the wild denizens of the primitive wilderness, plowed up those new-born fields and laid the foundation for the blessings of civilization which all the people of the State now enjoy. Thus to a great degree the State of Mississippi is deeply indebted to the ancestors of the distinguished subject of this sketch, who cultivated the soil in the vicinity of the city of Vicksburg and made it blossom like the rose.

AN INFANT INTELLECTUAL PRODIGY.

Of the many remarkable things concerning this extraordinary man, the most conspicuous one has to deal with his education. In the days of his youth there were no educational advantages for the boy who had the misfortune to have been born with the "shadowed livery of the burning sun." Moreover, he was born on the very eve of the internecine conflict that deluged this nation in blood and resulted in the freedom of the Negro race. He had only the barest



W. E. MOLLISON, ESQ

plantation opportunities for education in the days of his youth. He was a boy of remarkable precocity, and this is demonstrated by the fact that he learned to read when he was only four years old. In many respects he was an infant prodigy, and was looked up to by all the country around as the brain of the neighborhood. He mastered all the intricacies of Webster's Blue Back Spelling Book while he was living in a log cabin on the banks of the Mississippi river. He had a ready insight into the art of reading, and that art was for several years the only source of his information. He devoured with ravenous appetite every book that he was so fortunate as to get his hands on, and he thus became one of the best read youths in the country for miles around. So dense and so universal was the illiteracy around him that he was the only colored youth in his vicinity that had a knowledge of reading from the time he was six years old until his eleventh birthday. The humble natives came from miles around to hear him read the Bible and other books, and his humble cabin was indeed a modern Mecca to which the faithful might repair in search of the gospel of truth and righteousness. Of course, the youthful intellectual prodigy had to pay a heavy penalty for his knowledge, for it entailed countless efforts at reading for the benefit of the hundreds that regularly came to his cabin for their spiritual and temporal edification. So frequently did he read the Bible for the benefit of his hearers that not only did he know a great deal of the same by heart, but it bred a sort of distaste for the book which it took quite a number of years to destroy. He was not only the public reader for the whole neighborhood, but circumstances forced upon him the responsibility of being the public letter writer for the neighborhood. Thus it is evident to the readers of this narrative how indispensable to the welfare of his fellow citizens Mr. Mollison was in the days of his youth, and he is none the less a necessity for his fellow-citizens in the full strength of his manhood; and it is more than probable that those conditions which forced him to serve his fellows, when a mere youth, were incentives to prepare him for even greater service in his mature manhood.

A BRILLIANT STUDENT AT COLLEGE.

Inasmuch as the greater part of his education was self-acquired in the early days of his youth, it was perfectly natural that he should have been developed in a one-sided manner, which was really the case. He could read like a philosopher and spell like a wizard, but he was sadly deficient in the other fundamental branches. Of course, he was a very ambitious youth, and wanted to obtain a first-class education, so at the earliest possible oppor-

tunity he went off to college. In the year of 1876 he doffed his homespun trousers and quit the confines of his youth, and went off to Fisk University, Nashville, Tenn. He was a raw country youth, it was true, but he was far from being a simpleton. He was far behind many of those who had been blessed with better advantages than he, and so he waded into the studies of the curriculum with a grim determination to get a maximum of results in a minimum of time. He summoned to his resources all of the innate energies that had enabled his ancestors to triumph over the primitive conditions in a new country, and he succeeded. When he entered Fisk University he was classified three or four classes above the class in which he really belonged, but he struggled and made good. By diligent application he went as far as the middle preparatory class in Fisk University, having been inconvenienced by late entrance and early leaving for the farm. After having attended Fisk University for a short time, the subject of this sketch was attracted to Oberlin College, where he completed his literary training. The whole time that he spent in Fisk University and Oberlin College covered a period of about twenty-three months. While a student at Fisk University he did in ten months' time an equivalent of five years' work for an ordinary student. In his student career at Fisk University and Oberlin College he gained a good working knowledge of Latin, Greek and the German language, and at Oberlin College he won great distinction as a brilliant student, a veritable twenty carat diamond in the rough.

IN PUBLIC LIFE.

He quit Oberlin College in the year of 1879 and went home to take up the responsibility of the teachers' profession, but on his return home he ran for the office of Chancery Clerk when he was only twenty years old, but he suffered defeat in this his first political venture. Not at all discouraged by his late defeat, he bought a newspaper, which he edited and ran for three years. He was appointed by a Democratic administration Superintendent of the public schools of Issaquena County for a term of two years, but before the expiration of his term of office as Superintendent he was elected Clerk of the Circuit and Chancery Courts of Issaquena County. Thus acting in accordance with the opinion of the Attorney General of the State, he held at the same time the dual office of Superintendent of Instruction and Clerk of the Circuit and Chancery Courts. As owner and publisher of the county newspaper, combined with the other positions of trust and responsibility which he held, there were four positions in his keeping at one time. He was the honored Clerk of the Circuit and Chancery Courts of

Issaquena County from the year of 1884 until the year of 1892, inclusive, and he was re-elected to the position without a dissenting vote. About that time, or in the year of 1890, the State Constitutional Convention of the State of Mississippi was held, and it wrought far-reaching changes in the laws of the State, and owing to the changes in the constitution the colored voter was largely eliminated from the political affairs of the State.

ADMITTED TO THE BAR IN 1881.

The subject had read law from the beginning of his student life at Fisk University, but beginning in the year of 1880, Mr. Mollison took up the earnest study of law in the office of Judge E. Jeffords, a famous legal luminary that had once graced the bench of the Supreme Court of his State, and he was admitted to the bar in the year of 1881. He was as precocious in the study of law as he had been in the prosecution of his literary branches, and consequently it was an easy matter for him to forge rapidly to the front as a practicing attorney. In the year of 1893 he had the honor of being appointed by one of the judges to the exalted position of District Attorney pro tem of Issaquena County, and he filled with distinction this office for the whole term. In the year of 1900 he was appointed by the President of the United States to be Supervisor of the United States census for the Seventh District of Mississippi, one of the largest districts of the State, and in that capacity he was responsible for the proper enumeration of the population of his section of the State.

THE PEER OF ANY LAWYER AT THE MISSISSIPPI BAR.

While Mr. Mollison is easily one of the ablest and one of the most versatile men in the State of Mississippi, his undying fame will rest more on his ability as a member of the bar. His qualification is eminently and pre-eminently legal. As a lawyer he at one time had the largest criminal practice in the State. He is perhaps the most widely known colored lawyer in his State. He has actively practiced his profession in nine counties of the State, and has been employed in a legal capacity in twenty-five counties of the State. In recent years he has to a great extent applied his great talents to the practice of civil law. He has built up a great reputation as an attorney in land cases. His opinion in such cases is considered conclusive. He is one of the leading chancery lawyers of the State, and fortunate is that attorney that can prevail against him in a case at law. He has a passion for the study of law, and it is his proud declaration that he would rather have the honor of being a first-class lawyer than to have the honor of being supreme judge of the universe. His practice is one of the most extensive

and one of the most lucrative in the State, and his clientele numbers among them representatives from both races of this Southland. He is counsel for Supreme Camp Colored Woodmen; he is counsel for Grand Camp Colored Woodmen; he is counsel for the Knights of Tabor; he is counsel for the United Brothers and Sisters of Benevolence; he is counsel for the State Golden Rule Societies; he is counsel for the Mound Bayou Oil Mill & Manufacturing Company; he is counsel for the United Reformers; he is counsel for the Lincoln Park Land Company.

PROMINENT IN FRATERNITY CIRCLES.

It is perfectly natural that a man of Mr. Mollison's ability and general versatility should have been drawn into activities outside of the domain of law and politics. The world is so constituted that for the man of ability along any line there will always be an abundance of work to do. So along fraternity lines his transcendent ability has been called into requisition, and he has guided to success one or more of the best known fraternities in the State of Mississippi. He is Supreme Governor of the Colored Woodmen and Grand Attorney for the Mississippi jurisdiction of this order. This order operates in Louisiana, Alabama, Arkansas and has applied for admission to the State of Tennessee. It was organized in the year 1906, and in the short period of its existence it has grown to wonderful proportions. It now has a total membership of 7,000, and it is still growing by leaps and bounds in every direction.

A GREAT BUSINESS PROMOTER.

Lawyer Mollison is a man of large and varied affairs. Between his extensive legal practice and his multitude of business interests he is one of the busiest men in the State of Mississippi. He is President of the Lincoln Park Land Company of Vicksburg, Miss., a company capitalized at \$10,000, and engaged in general realty transactions. He is one of the original stockholders of the Solvent Savings Bank of Memphis, Tenn., an institution which has been highly successful in its financial operations. He is a stockholder of the Delta Savings Bank of Greenville, Mississippi; he is a director of the Mound Bayou Oil Mill & Manufacturing Company and the attorney for the same company. He is one of the promoters of the Union Guaranty Insurance Company of Mississippi, an insurance company composed of some of the ablest men and greatest financiers of the race, and destined to be of invaluable service to the interests of the race. Mr. Mollison is the attorney of this insurance company, and his masterly legal mind will look well to the interests of this company.

HIS ESTIMABLE AND DEVOTED LIFE PARTNER.

On the 5th of October, in the year of 1880, Mr. Mollison made the greatest plea of his life, when he succeeded in winning the hand of his dear wife, who was in the days of her single blessedness Miss Ida T. Welborn of Clinton, Mississippi. She is a graduate of Fisk University, and was an honored teacher in the schools of the States of Kentucky and Illinois. The happy couple were married at Fisk University, and thus those classic walls that had formerly rung with the praises of Mr. Mollison when he was a brilliant student at Fisk University now reverberated with the joyful acclaims of Hymen.

THEIR TALENTED FAMILY.

Seven children have blessed the union of Mr. and Mrs. Mollison, and they thus present a living example of their views on the momentous question of race suicide. Each one of their children in some worthy avenue of life is striving to uphold the family name and maintain the family honor. Miss Willie Ethel Mollison, now Mrs. C. B. Minor, is a graduate of both the academic and the music department of Tougaloo University. She has had experience as a teacher, and was for some time employed in that capacity in the schools of Greenville and Vicksburg. She is a noted pianiste, and occasionally gives lessons on that instrument. Her devoted husband is a promising young attorney of the city of Vicksburg, and a hard and capable worker in the law office of his distinguished father-in-law. Miss Lydia Wells Mollison is now a student in the college department of Tougaloo University. Miss Mabel Z. Mollison is a graduate of Oberlin Business College, of Oberlin, Ohio. She holds a diploma from one of the leading business colleges of this country, and she is a well equipped young woman from both an intellectual and business standpoint. She is an expert stenographer, and has done much work in the way of court reporting and teaching stenography. Miss Annie M. Mollison is a graduate of the McDowell School of Dressmaking and Designing, of Chicago, Ill., and she also holds a diploma from the Blesse School of Millinery of the same city. Owing to her proficiency in these practical accomplishments of housekeeping, she has taught these arts at Shaw University, Raleigh, N. C. Welborn Atwood Mollison is a student of Tougaloo University. Irvin C. Mollison, though only twelve years of age, is one of the best informed boys of his age in the State of Mississippi. He is an inveterate reader and an embryo walking encyclopedia of useful and valuable information. He is a bookworm of the thirty-third degree, and he can wade

through a series of ponderous and formidable looking books with the same equanimity with which the average youth would read through a fascinating novel. He has cultivated familiarity with some of the master minds of literature, and he is well on in the development of one of the brightest minds that will some future day grace the institutions of this country. The writer now comes to the youngest scion of the honorable house of Mollison, Master Walter G. Mollison, a youth of tender years. He has reached that period in youth when the sum total of human existence revolves around the athletic field. The sweetest music that can charm his ears is the sonorous whack of the baseball bat when it lands with violent thud on the festive horsehide and sends it up in the form of a parabola to the distant territory in the baseball lot. He is a typical American youth, with the reddest of red blood coursing through his veins, or he would never be such an intense devotee at the shrine of the national pastime. There is a great future for this American youth, for at the psychological moment he will transfer the greater part of his youthful energies to the more useful walks of life and gain in them a degree of fame not less than he has gained on account of his devotion to baseballology.

HIS PERSONALITY.

Mr. Mollison is not only one of the most distinguished lawyers of the State of Mississippi, but he is one of the best known men in his home State. Whether as a lawyer, legislator, platform orator, business man or fraternity builder, he takes a leading rank with the best men in the State. In general ability he is the peer of any other man in the State, and it is an honor to the State of his nativity that it should have given him to the nation.

Mr. Mollison is a man of the highest culture and the most charming personality. He is a man of fine presence, and he is endowed with all the graces that tend to make him such an ornament to society. He is a fine conversationalist, and there is an affability characteristic of the man that makes him very easy of approach to even the most diffident. He is an orator of note, and in the realm of forensic effort he has an ability that suffers nothing in comparison with any of the gifted sons of the State. He is an adroit and experienced politician, a trained legislator, a capable business man, a convincing orator, an able lawyer and one of the best all-round men in the land. He is a sort of modern Chesterfield in his manners and in his bearing, and he is altogether one of the most picturesque, most fertile in ingenuity and most brilliant men in the whole Southland.



MRS. G. P. HAMILTON

Thomas H. Hayes, Memphis, Tenn.

FUNERAL DIRECTOR AND EMBALMER, AND VICE-PRESIDENT OF
SOLVENT SAVINGS BANK & TRUST COMPANY.



ON THE 15th day of August, in the year of 1868, there was born in the suburbs of Richmond, Virginia, a being whose history was destined to shine with stellar brightness in the business and financial firmament of the Negro race. The old Dominion State wrought well for the race when it brought into existence the popular and lovable man whose grand success in the business world has not only been an inspiration to the race, but has indelibly emblazoned his name and fame on the bright pages of the race's history. When the subject of this sketch was only a tiny lad of three years of age, his parents quit the State of his birth and turned their adventurous steps toward the West, and did not stop until they had reached the western section of sunny Tennessee, where they located on a plantation near LaGrange.

QUIT THE FARM TO COME TO MEMPHIS.

His whole life to his sixteenth birthday was spent on a farm, and he was thoroughly inured to the duties and hardships of farming life. Ambitious to earn more money than farming life made possible, he quit the farm for a season, came to the city of Memphis, Tennessee, when he had reached his sixteenth birthday, and secured employment with the Milburn Iron Works Company in South Memphis. The splendid discipline which he had received on the farm was of great value to him in his new field of activity, and he succeeded in his two-fold desire to make good with his employers and to earn the money that he was anxious to possess. In a short time he returned to the farm, but the superior advantages and attractions of city life had borne their fruits, and he again shook the rustic dust from his feet and returned to the city of Memphis, which was to be his permanent home. He worked as a porter on Front street for ten years, and finally saved up enough capital with which to enter the grocery business on a small scale. From the earliest days of his youth he had an uncontrollable craze to be a grocer, so at the first reasonable opportunity he realized on an humble scale the dream of his youth.

THREE BUSINESS FAILURES IN SUCCESSION.

He first began business on Gholston street, but he was not destined to succeed in his first mercantile venture. On the contrary,



THOMAS H. HAYES

it was his misfortune to score failure number one. His next mercantile venture was a grocery store on Beale avenue, but in spite of his buoyant expectations and high hopes for business success, the Nemesis of mercantile disaster still pursued him, and the result was that he scored nothing but failure number two. Not at all discouraged, he next tried the experiment of business life on South Second street, and again the fates would not confer prosperity upon him, for in this third venture in business life he scored failure number three. In connection with these repeated examples of failure it may be explained that they resulted from no lack of ability on his own part, but they were caused by the fact that he entrusted the management of his business to the hands of others. In those days it was his misfortune to be a very poor man, and it was absolutely necessary for him to work out in order to make all ends meet. His business was not well enough established to maintain him, and that fact made it necessary for him to go out in service in various capacities.

EDUCATED HIMSELF WHEN HE WAS NEARLY GROWN.

When the subject of this sketch had become practically a grown man it dawned upon his understanding that he needed an education if he ever really desired to be a successful man. So he entered Howe Institute, Memphis, Tenn., as a student, and was placed in the lowest class of the school. From the beginning his progress was remarkable, and he gained class after class until at the expiration of two years' attendance he had advanced to the eighth grade. It is doubtful if his career as a student has had a parallel in that school, and it is more than probable that his meteoric rise in scholarship while a student of Howe Institute was the precursor of his subsequent unparalleled success in business life. In order that his attendance at school might not be interrupted and that he might have a steady income for the purpose of attending school, Mr. Hayes bought the outfit for a barber shop and set himself up in the business of a barber, notwithstanding the fact that he had never had an hour's experience in that business before. But he had grit, confidence in himself and self-reliance, and these qualities are nine points in one's favor while fighting the battles of life. He established himself on Poplar avenue, and he was successful beyond his most sanguine expectations.

AN EARNEST STUDENT AND SELF-MADE BARBER.

There was something refreshing in the supreme confidence of Mr. Hayes respecting his ability to make good in the tonsorial

business, for he had not had the least experience in that line, and it is probable that he had never manipulated the shears on any other living being but a bewooled sheep. In a short time he gained a splendid reputation as a finished artist in his line. He did not inflict upon his customers the "Mother cut," which had made their youth so miserable, but he gave them an artistic trimming that was a joy to behold. His barbershop served its purpose in providing him the means for gaining an education. He worked at his trade diligently and burned the midnight oil of study, and thus accomplished in two years of study as much as it would have taken a less determined and ambitious mind five or six years of unremitting effort. Seldom has it been the case that a young man has possessed the foresight to make such a systematic preparation for gaining an education. In that sole act may be seen the real character of the man. When he has made up his mind to accomplish a certain object in life all the powers of doubt and darkness will be futile against his iron determination.

A TRAVELING COMMERCIAL SALESMAN.

But it was not the intention of Mr. Hayes to continue in the business of a tonsorial artist. It had enabled him to gain some of the education that he needed, and having served its purpose, he sold out his barbershop and went to selling clocks and Bibles for the Red Star Supply Company of Memphis, Tenn., and remained with that firm for about a year and a half. While connected with that firm as traveling salesman he was not blind to the financial success that he was reaping for the firm, and it occurred to him that if he could succeed so well in a business way for others he could certainly succeed as well for himself. This is quite a serious thought, and should be carefully considered by a host of others of the race. If the man has the ability to do well for some one else he ought to be able to do equally as well for himself. Moreover, the element of self-interest enters largely into the success of any business venture, and a man will often exert himself with greater fidelity to his own business interests than he would to the interests of any other person. There are in every community well qualified and capable men that have been content to slave out a lifetime in the service of some one else, without the slightest chance ever to advance a single step beyond the position they hold, whereas if they had the spirit of adventure and real manhood, they would have cut loose from the slavery of eternal meniality for others and become their own business masters. Mr. Hayes realized this important fact, severed his connection with the Red Star Supply Company and went into the same kind of business as his own boss and

master. He traveled a year selling clocks, Bibles and the like, and gained a knowledge of business and human character that was to be of inestimable value to him in his subsequent business life.

HIS FOURTH BUSINESS FAILURE.

It was not the will of fate that Mr. Hayes should continue indefinitely in the business of an itinerant salesman on a commission basis, for during his whole experience he had heard the still, small voice of his first business love calling him back to his allegiance. Like the ghost of Banquo, the grocery business would not down. So he quit the business of traveling salesman and resumed business as a grocer. He organized the most pretentious business affair with which he had ever been connected, the Central Grocery Company, consisting of three or more partners, and he again started out with the usual dreams and hopes of success for an earnest business man, but it availed him naught, because he was doomed to score his fourth successive failure in the grocery business. He closed the doors of his defunct business establishment and went back to hard work on Front street with the sole desire of liquidating in full at the earliest possible moment every dollar of indebtedness that he owed the merchants that had accommodated him, for it has ever been one of the cardinal traits in the character of Mr. Hayes never to owe a man a single penny any longer than it is necessary to earn it and pay the obligation. Having worked on Front street until he had paid every dollar of his indebtedness, he resolved to go back into the grocery business. His four previous successive failures had not daunted him, and he was determined to rise Phoenix-like from the ashes of former failures. How he finally succeeded is shown in the continuation of this story.

HIS FIFTH BUSINESS VENTURE A SUCCESS.

All of his debts having been liquidated, he was at liberty to try business life again, which he did on Ross avenue, Memphis, Tenn. He began business with a capital of thirty-five dollars in cash. Two prominent merchants who had accommodated him before and knew his reliability came to his assistance with a stock of groceries to the value of three hundred dollars. He had made his final resolution to succeed in this fifth business venture. He had greatly profited by the adverse experiences of former business mistakes, and he knew what steps to take in order to guarantee his success. He stayed by, nursed and carefully attended to his business. He did not trust its success to idlesome and irresponsible clerks and assistants, but he looked after his own success. The result of his

changed policy was that he succeeded from the very beginning of this last business venture. Compared with his previous experiences he flourished like two green bay trees. In a reasonable period of time he had by the application of business principles accumulated the princely sum of fourteen hundred dollars (\$1,400), including a horse and buggy. He was thus safe on the high road to prosperity, and it is probable that he would long ere this time have been clashing business arms with the commercial kings on Front street if he had continued in the grocery business. But it was not the fiat of fate that Mr. Hayes was to continue in the grocery business in which he was just beginning to taste the first fruits of his success, but he was destined to enter a business in which he was to make a name and a fame that would be heard around the world.

HE FINDS HIS TRUE CALLING AT LAST.

It was purely an accident that caused Mr. Hayes to enter the undertaking business. It was not the result of any meditation or planning. Four days before entering the undertaking business he had not the faintest idea of such a business venture. Because of the fact that one of the local undertakers had died and because of the fact that Mr. Hayes had a large barn in connection with his grocery business, he was invited by a friend to associate himself with this friend in the undertaking business. Quickly thinking over the matter, he accepted, took firm hold of the reins of authority and made his first funeral engagement May 20th, 1902. He had had no experience in the undertaking business, and he was as ill prepared for success in it as he had been in the barber business when he first resorted to it as a means for procuring an education. He had not the simplest knowledge of how to manipulate the bodies of the dead, and he was the greenest man that ever was initiated into the mysteries of the undertaking business. However, he had confidence in himself, and he only wanted time to show his capabilities. He buckled down to hard and systematic study of every phase of the new business, and gradually became conversant with every detail of it. He made a special study of human anatomy and the science of embalming, and in the course of a short time his knowledge of these branches was so thorough as to cause him to measure up to the highest requirements of the profession. He but he began to originate business methods, and strove to develop and expand the business. It has ever been the principle of Mr. Hayes to have the very best or nothing, and his firm has lived up to its motto. From a business of insignificant proportions he has built up a business of such great magnitude as cannot be surpassed, if even duplicated, among the undertakers of the United States. not only became an expert in the general details of the business,

ONE OF THE LEADING UNDERTAKERS OF THE COUNTRY.

Impartial commercial travelers, who have visited undertaking establishments all over the United States, pronounce the undertaking firm of Mr. Hayes as the most substantial and complete of its kind in the whole country. His equipment is as costly and elegant as the most extravagant wishes of his patrons can possibly demand. He has five hearses of the finest and most pretentious make, one ambulance, two dead wagons, one coach for pall bearers, four buggies and twelve horses. His funeral establishment is complete in every respect. He has a commodious chapel room for holding services over the dead. He has a morgue, stock room for caskets of all kinds from the humblest to the costliest, and a room for every variety of robes and linings. He keeps in stock metallic caskets, which cost up to \$800. He has an unusually large stock of funeral paraphernalia of all kinds. Because of the fact that he is able to purchase his goods in carload lots he is thus able to command for his patrons a lower cost price than usual. He enjoys a monopoly of the local patronage of some of the leading wholesale dealers of the United States, and is thus able to get the benefit of prices that would otherwise be impossible if his patronage were not such a desirable acquisition to the dealers in question. The great secret of business success is in the ability to purchase at a close margin, and this has been one of the fortunate circumstances in connection with the undertaking establishment of Mr. Hayes. The volume of his business is immense, and the excellence of its service is on a parity with the size of the business. If any bereaved one desires to bestow as a testimonial of love the finest funeral that his financial circumstances will allow, Mr. Hayes has the equipment. On the contrary, if the poorest person in the community desires to put away in decency and for the least cost his dear one, the answer still may be that Mr. Hayes has the equipment. Thus is it the case that he is the refuge of the rich and the poor, and can give complete satisfaction in either instance.

A LEADER IN THE WORLD OF FINANCE AND BUSINESS.

In the year of 1902 Mr. Hayes began in the undertaking business with a capital of \$1,400. So extraordinary has been his success in the undertaking business that he has increased his original capital thirty or forty-fold. He has climbed the ladder of financial success more rapidly than any other colored man in the history of the proud city of Memphis. From a man that was comparatively a poor man in the year of 1902 he has in a strictly legitimate way become one of the wealthiest colored men in the city of Memphis. He is now one of the leaders in the world of business and finance, and thousands are only too glad to do him honor because of the

fact that he was not born with any silver spoon in his mouth, and came from the very ground on up to his present exalted position of wealth and responsibility. It is not a matter of remote tradition that Mr. Hayes was once a very poor man, for that day was so recent that most of the grown-up citizens of the present day can easily recollect the time.

He is a stockholder of the Mississippi Beneficial Life Insurance Company; he is First Vice-President of the Solvent Savings Bank & Trust Company of Memphis, Tenn., the pioneer banking institution of the race in the city of Memphis. He is a stockholder in the Standard Life Insurance Company of Atlanta, Georgia, an insurance company that is being promoted by Negro brains and capital, and which seems destined to play a very important part in the affairs of the race. He is a stockholder in the Blocker Coal Company of Oklahoma. He also owns stock in a valuable copper mine in Arizona. He is a life member of the National Negro Business League.

A LARGE PROPERTY OWNER.

Not only has Mr. Hayes these large and varied interests in connection with his undertaking business, each of which he has endeavored to develop, but he has some of the most extensive and most valuable realty in the city of Memphis. His home residence, in which is also located his business establishment, is a massive, commodious, substantial two-story brick building that covers the entire space from Poplar avenue to the alley in the rear. This splendid building is situated in the heart of the business center of the city of Memphis, and is estimated to be worth not less than \$30,000. The lower floor of this vast building and the extreme rear are devoted to the use of his undertaking establishment, while the upper floor contains a suite of rooms elegantly fitted up for living apartments. His home has every convenience that either necessity or luxury can demand, and everything is in harmony with the circumstances of the owner. In addition to his superb and palatial home residence, in connection with his business establishment he has valuable property all over the city of Memphis. He has houses and lots in Klondike, Orange Mound, New Chicago, Middle Memphis and East Memphis.

DOES NOT WEAR A PADLOCK ON HIS PURSE.

His bad luck seemed to change as soon as he had entered the undertaking business. He has not only thrived in the undertaking business, but he has been successful in almost every other business venture with which he has been connected. He seems to have found the philosopher's stone of olden times, that mysterious and occult

substance that could transmute everything into gold. In his various investments he has been more wise than lucky, and his success has been more a matter of business judgment than mere blind luck. He has at all times desired to do exactly what is right and honorable, and to merit the confidence and esteem of all the people. He is a man of great sympathy, and there is no cause affecting the welfare of humanity that does not have some kind of a claim upon him. He does not wear a padlock on his purse. If he has any fault in that direction at all it is his extreme liberality, which would in some cases lead to his being imposed upon. There can be no doubt that Mr. Hayes is one of the most liberal-hearted men in the city of Memphis. He does not give just for public show, but he gives because it is his very nature to give and help the cause of humanity. In all of his prosperity he has never tried to get away from his race. The more that he has prospered the more he has been able to sympathize with those who are less fortunate than himself. He has never forgotten the dark days of his own business life, and for that very reason he has ever felt close in sympathy to the poor and struggling. There is no real worthy charity to which he will not contribute, and this trait of his character has caused him to do more for the cause of charity than any other colored man in the city of Memphis.

NEVER A QUITTER BECAUSE OF FAILURE.

The race is sadly in need of a host of men of the character of Mr. Hayes. It needs men of greater race sympathy and race love. It needs men that are not so easily discouraged by repeated failures, but who, on the contrary, will be but the more determined with each successive failure to take a new buckle in their belt and begin anew the struggle for success. The race has too many quitters in the battle of life, too many that are bowled over in the first round of disappointment. The ship of life carries such a valuable cargo of possibilities that no one should give up the struggle without fighting until she sinks. Four times did Mr. Hayes take the count of failure in business, but each time he came up smiling for more. He is a man of such an optimistic temperament that he does not believe in utter defeat if a man wills otherwise; consequently, discouragements that would overwhelm others are but greater incentives for continued effort.

AN IDEAL FRATERNITY MEMBER.

It is almost superfluous to state that Mr. Hayes is a member in good standing with all of the various fraternities. The bewhiskered and belligerent goat that is supposed to get ready for business

whenever some poor trembling soul is to be inducted into the mysteries of the order has no terrors for him. Mr. Hayes has an ideal temperament for a fraternity man, for he is naturally endowed with an abundance of human sympathy, which not even the sacred pledges of the lodge room can make possible. He not only has a full conception of a moral obligation in both business and fraternity life, but he feels morally obligated by the common ties of humanity to do all in his power for the welfare and uplift of the human race, and especially that part of it of which he is an honored member. No man will ever lose a dollar because of any business transaction with Mr. Hayes, for his conscience is always alert to that which is right and just affecting the interests of others, as well as his own. In his business relations with his patrons it has ever been his policy to give to them complete satisfaction, even though the result in some cases should be attended with loss to himself.

A LIBERAL CHURCH MAN.

Mr. Hayes is a substantial member of St. John Baptist Church, and a very strong pillar of that well-known religious structure. It is supposed that if he had not been such a good Baptist that many of the blessings that have been his to enjoy would have been denied him. He believes in practical as well as revealed religion. He believes in the principles of the golden rule, and has made them the guiding star of his whole life. There is nothing narrow in his religious activities, and his purse is opened as readily to the churches of other denominations as it is to his own. He is cosmopolitan in his religious sympathies, and thus can accomplish far greater good in a practical way than if he were a hide-bound zealot.

HIS ESTIMABLE WIFE AND DOMESTIC QUEEN.

On the 31st of March, 1898, when the worthy subject of this sketch was making a heroic struggle to keep his head above the financial waves that had for a long time beaten with relentless fury around him, it was his good fortune to summon to his rescue the assistance, loyalty and devotion of the dear woman who has since that happy day borne his worthy name. She has ministered to his necessities both in sickness and in health, and she has been contented to share with her husband both his sorrows and his joys. She was a Miss Florence Taylor of Covington, Tenn., and kind fortune has blessed her with many of the qualities of heart and mind that make her the reigning queen of her elegant home. She began to counsel with her husband when he was a struggling merchant, and her timely encouragement and assistance did wonders to inspire him and make him the optimistic and successful business



MRS. THOMAS H. HAYES AND CHILDREN

man that he is today. The success of nearly every man has largely been due to the inspiration and devotion of some dear wife or some sainted mother, and the successful life of Mr. Hayes is no exception to the general rule. The married life of Mr. and Mrs. Hayes has been cemented and brightened by the loving presence of two comely and precocious boys, who will as soon as possible be admitted to partnership in their father's business, and be given a chance to demonstrate the character of the material of which they are made. Figuratively speaking, the two lads in question were born to the purple, and came to these mundane shores with a choice assortment of silver and golden spoons in their mouths, but as sure as fate these two lads will be trained for work and disciplined in the severe school of service and usefulness to their fellowmen. Certainly they will not be permitted and encouraged to fritter away their golden moments in aimless and easy living. Mr. Hayes is well acquainted with the fact that wealth has its disadvantages as well as its advantages, and he is determined that his children will use his means in a manner that will redound to the benefit and uplift of the world.

AN EXTENSIVE TRAVELER.

The subject has been an extensive traveler, and there is hardly a section of the United States that he has not visited. Wherever he has traveled he has kept his eyes wide open, and he has purposely scaled up in the caskets of his memory everything of value to him or to his interests. Wherever he has been able to gain a single idea that would advance his business interests he has been happy to avail himself of the same. He has the very laudable ambition to attain the zenith of success in the undertaking business. In his particular business he would aspire to be a modern Alexander the Great, and if he fails in his great ambition it will be a failure of the head and not of the heart.

DOES NOT DESERVE ONE ENEMY.

The subject is a man that attends strictly to his own business, and he takes no part whatsoever in those unfortunate factional differences that tend to divide and imperil the interests of the race. He believes in peace and race unity, and he not only preaches this doctrine, but he practices it wherever he goes. In all factional strife and turbulent agitations he is conspicuous by his absence. He is not a plumed knight, ready to lead the cohorts of any faction to victory at the expense of some other faction. He has no enemies on whose heads he is at all anxious to pour coals of fire, and it is

doubtful if he has of his own voluntary making a single enemy in the whole world. Prompted by the spirit of true charity alone, Mr. Hayes gives freely, but the bread that he casts on the water is always brought back to him. His prosperity in the short period of less than a decade has been nearly unprecedented in the business records of the race. It sounds more like a story culled from the pages of the Arabian Nights.

HIS SUCCESS HAS BEEN MARVELOUS.

The success of Mr. Hayes has been marvelous. The fact is, his wonderful business success has been a standing sensation for several years, and many people have expressed their inability to account for the phenomenal results that he has wrought in the business world. In the opinion of the writer the great success of Mr. Hayes has been due to the personality of the man. Very few men would have been as persistent as he was for years, in spite of the many failures that befell him. He is a lovable man, a persistent man, a considerate man and a perfectly honest and honorable man. He believes in the possibilities of the Negro race if it be true to the principles of virtue, honor and love. Few people, if indeed any, envy Mr. Hayes the possession of his princely fortune, but on the contrary, a host of admirers and friends would prefer to assist him to scale higher and higher on the ladder of success. He well deserves all the success which the faithful and unremitting service of years has brought to him, and he will continue to be in the future, as he has been in the past, the most popular and the most lovable man in Memphis.



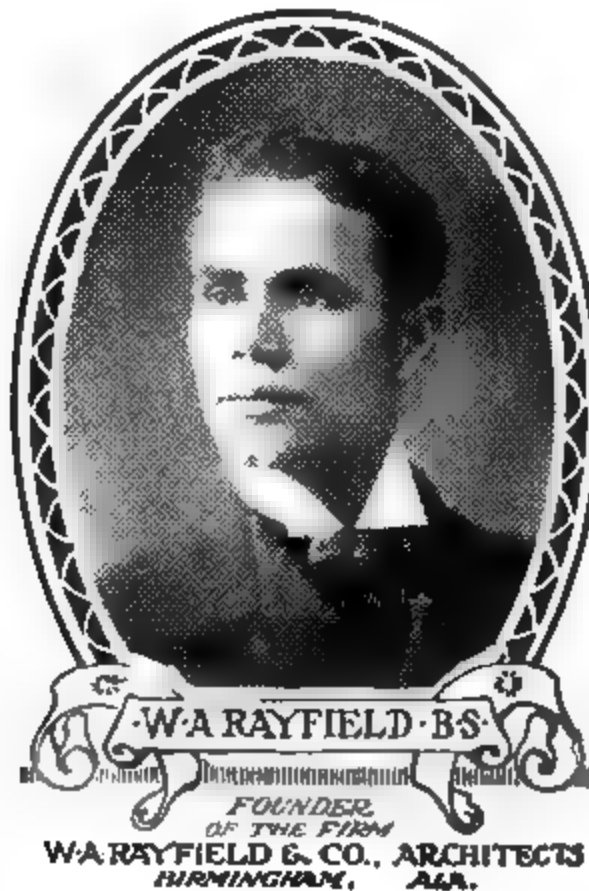
W. A. Rayfield, B.S., Birmingham, Ala.

BACHELOR OF ARCHITECTURE, GENERAL SUPERVISING ARCHITECT.



T HAS often been declared by many critics of the Negro race that its members lack the patience, perseverance and determined persistence that members of the dominant race possess in their pursuit of knowledge of the fine arts.

It is a common experience of thousands of students of the white race to quit their homes, visit foreign lands and bury themselves in faithful and unremitting study of the fine arts for many years. While this statement is true, yet the true art spirit is the birthright of no particular race, and it struggles to manifest itself among all



peoples, all climates and all soils. Genius is heaven born and dwells in the lowly hut of the peasant as readily as in the palace of the rich.

Of all the fine arts the one that most conserves the pleasure and welfare of human society is the art of architecture. Necessarily it is one of the most ancient of all arts, and was co-existent with the life of man. The planning of the roof over one's head is of first importance in the scale of human necessity, and that man who

is the exponent of this ancient art is not only of primary importance to the welfare and happiness of his fellows, but he may be considered in the light of a benefactor to the human race.

NATIVITY.

Mr. W. A. Rayfield, the architect, is a native son of the State of Georgia, and was born in Macon, Ga., May 10, 1873. He was fortunate in having had parents that were intelligent, and who had some idea of the value and importance of education. His sainted mother had attended Atlanta University, and had the honor of being an early classmate of Prof. Scarborough, the eminent scholar and president of Wilberforce University.

HIS EARLY EDUCATION.

Having been born in the city of Macon, Ga., the early education of the subject was received in the public schools of that city. He attended the old Lewis Intermediate and High School, after which in accordance with his mother's consent he was put under the personal care and instruction of Miss Lucy G. Laney, then as now, one of the most noted educators of the Negro race in this country. For seven years his education and protection were entrusted to this gifted woman and famous educator, and the influence of this noble woman in the molding and development of the subject's character made an indelible impression on his life.

OFF TO COLLEGE.

When the subject was in his sixteenth year he quit the scenes of the Southland and went to Washington to complete his literary education. He entered the preparatory department of Howard University and remained a student of that institution of learning for seven long years, receiving his diploma of graduation from the classical department with the degree of Bachelor of Science in 1896.

AN EARLY STIMULUS TO ART.

While the subject was a pupil in the intermediate department of the Lewis School of Macon, Ga., he took special interest in map drawing, and because of excellence in that art he received a prize from the school authorities. This first prize was no doubt an incentive for him to persevere along those lines, and it is more than probable that his subsequent career as a great architect had its impetus in the insignificant prize that rewarded his efforts when

he was a small boy way down in the elementary schools of his native State.

THE LOVE FOR ART GREW.

In spite of the severe character of the literary work that was done by the student at Howard University, his inclination for the study of art continued the predominating ambition of his life. It was a serious problem with the subject how he would ever be able to realize the earnest desire of his life. At this psychological moment in his life it was his good fortune to meet a friend, Miss D. L. Mussey, who came to his rescue and put him on the road to the happy goal of his life. She was a fine artist, and kindly volunteered her assistance to him at her home on Saturdays, a proffer of kindness which he gladly accepted and availed himself of for two years. The worthy father of this kind young woman was a prominent lawyer, and he was the attorney for the well-known firm of architects, A. B. Mullett & Company, of Washington, D. C. Through the kindly intercession of Lawyer Mussey, the subject was admitted to the office of this famous firm of architects, remained with it for two years, and received that practical experience in architectural work that would have been impossible elsewhere.

A GRADUATE OF PRATT POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE.

The same year of his graduation from Howard University he quit the nation's capital and went to Brooklyn, N. Y., to study in the Department of Architecture of Pratt Polytechnic Institute. He remained a student of Pratt Institute for two years, studied diligently and received his certificate of graduation in 1898.

A GRADUATE OF COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

Still not satisfied with his preparation for his life work, when he received his certificate of graduation from Pratt Polytechnic Institute, he entered the Department of Architecture of Columbia University, New York City. He studied in that splendid school for one year, completed the course of instruction and received from that institution the degree of Bachelor of Architecture in the year of 1899.

A CHANCE VISIT OF DR. WASHINGTON.

While the subject was a student of Columbia University, Dr. B. T. Washington, the eminent educator of Tuskegee, Ala., visited the university, became acquainted with him and made him a proposition for his services as a teacher at Tuskegee Normal and Industrial

Institute, the service to begin as soon as the subject had graduated from the university. The subject accepted the proposition.

A TEACHER AT TUSKEGEE.

In the autumn of 1899 the subject went to Tuskegee as teacher of mechanical and architectural drawing. He served in that capacity for nearly a decade, and brought the department with which he was connected from the experimental stage up to one of the most complete in the country. He was faithful to his trust while connected with the school, and might have remained indefinitely in that position if his eyes had not been opened to greater financial opportunities in other lines of business.

AN ARCHITECT IN BIRMINGHAM.

Though a faithful teacher at Tuskegee Institute, he saw no financial future for him should he continue to remain in the profession of teaching, so he resolved to abandon the teachers' profession and enter the arena of business life on his own responsibility in the city of Birmingham, Ala. He moved to the city of Birmingham and brought with him the best of testimonials from Dr. Washington certifying to the subject's ability. The very day on which he began business for himself he was fortunate enough to get a forty-dollar job. Since locating in the city of Birmingham the success of the subject has been phenomenal. He has worked up his success in such an intelligent, business-like manner that an architect is now gladly employed by those who formerly thought an architect not necessary.

OFFICIAL ARCHITECT OF THE ZION A. M. E. CHURCH.

The subject has the honor of being the official architect of the A. M. E. Zion Church, and as such he does all of the connectional work of this branch of the Christian Church. It is only just to the subject to state that the great honor that he has won by actual competition with some of the leading architects of this country, two of the competitors being members of the subject's own race and three competitors being members of the white race. As official architect for this church he was elected for four years and he is subject to the denomination for the plans of all of its churches to be erected in all sections of the country during the term of his office.

SUPERVISING ARCHITECT FREEDMEN'S AID SOCIETY.

Not only is the subject officially connected as architect with the A. M. E. Zion Church, but he is also the General Supervising Architect of the Freedmen's Aid Society. This society, whose head-

quarters are in Cincinnati, has twenty-six schools under its supervision.

LOOK AT HIS CREATIONS.

While the subject has first-class, all-round ability as an architect, yet he makes a specialty of churches and schools. He has been the supervising architect in the erection of some of the finest churches and school houses in the State of Alabama and elsewhere. He was the supervising architect in the erection of the following buildings:



SIXTH AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH

The Sixteenth Street Baptist Church of Birmingham, Ala., costing \$50,000; the Sixth Avenue Baptist Church of Birmingham, costing \$35,000; Dr. A. M. Brown's residence, costing \$10,000, and Dr. W. R. Pettiford's elegant home. Also, he has been employed by many of the wealthiest men of the city for the purpose of beautifying the city.

A GOOD BUSINESS MAN.

The subject's office is located in the Mason building, Birmingham, Ala., and is equipped with every necessary instrument for the expeditious execution of every contract. His business has gradually been built up greatly in the estimation of the people, and it is now the wisdom of the most intelligent people of the Negro race to have trained and skillful architects to prepare plans for the erection of their homes.

MET HIS FUTURE WIFE AT TUSKEGEE.

In the year of 1901, while the subject was a teacher at Tuskegee Normal Institute, he first saw his fate in the person of his loving and faithful wife, who at that time was a student at Tuskegee. She was a Miss Jennie Hutchins of Clarksville, Tenn., and a graduate of the industrial department of Tuskegee. The subject cut short her student life, carried her to the altar and elevated her as



TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH

high as it is possible for a true and devoted woman to fill, that of Queen of the Home. The subject was fortunate in his selection of a life partner, for she is one of the truest and most devoted wives that ever lived.

HIGH CLASS MAN.

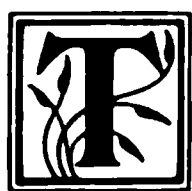
Mr. Rayfield is one of the high class architects of the race, and is worthy of being patronized by the best people of either race. He is one of the best educated men in the ranks of the race, and it is quite an honor to the city of Birmingham that it should have living in its corporate limits possibly the best Negro architect in the United States. He is the quintessence of modesty and affability, and enjoys the distinction of being one of the most popular men and one of the most eminent Negro architects of the South.



WASHINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOL

A. E. Clouston, Memphis, Tenn.

CAPITALIST AND FARMER.



THE problem of how to make money and what to do with it after it has been made is one of the most serious problems that confronts the ambitious man, and fortunate is that man who has the genius of making money and wisely administering the same for his personal comfort and the happiness of the loved ones that are dependent upon him. There is presented to the reading public the life story of a member of the Negro race whose prudence and success in the management of large financial interests are a revelation not only to his personal friends and admirers, but to the business world at large.

BORN IN MEMPHIS.

Mr. A. E. Clouston, the worthy subject of this sketch, is a native of Memphis, and was born June 14, 1866. He has resided in the city of Memphis all of his life, and the Bluff City is entitled to all credit for the subject's splendid success in the race of life.

EDUCATED IN THE BLUFF CITY.

Having been born in the city of Memphis, the subject had the privilege of attending the city schools of Memphis. He also attended LeMoyne Normal Institute of the same city, and completed his literary training in that splendid educational institution for the race.

WORKED HARD TO SUCCEED.

The subject worked hard to succeed in life, and it is probable that few young men ever roughed it more than he to make a way for himself and provide the necessities for his family. But a great fortune is now his own, and he is not compelled to work, toil and struggle as he did in the days of yore.

A CAPABLE BUSINESS MAN.

The subject is a most capable business man, and each succeeding year has witnessed a substantial addition to his vast realty possessions. He is a financial star of the first magnitude, and his business judgment is considered good and valued highly in the channels of commerce.

HIS PALATIAL HOME.

The subject of this sketch is the owner of an unusual home. It is a magnificent two-story stone building, that is worth a fortune



MR. AND MRS. A. E. CLOUSTON

of anybody's money. It is the first solid stone residence belonging to the race in the city of Memphis, and emphasizes in a concrete way that the race is rising in this beautiful and sunny Southland.

ONE OF THE WEALTHIEST MEN OF THE SOUTH.

The personal fortune of the subject is one of the largest in the South. It consists of a vast amount of real estate, both in the city of Memphis and in Shelby County, Tenn. It is unnecessary to particularize, but the subject ranks among the three richest colored men of the city of Memphis. It is largely a matter of pure speculation as to what Mr. Clouston is really worth, and it is very doubtful if he can give an accurate estimate himself. From the writer's knowledge of land values in the city of Memphis, Mr. Clouston's fortune, when reduced to dollars and cents, is of colossal proportions, and ought to approximate a quarter of a million or more dollars.

HAS EVERY NECESSARY COMFORT OF LIFE.

For a man to get the most out of life it is not necessary that he should contract the habit for the luxuries of life, for most people are satisfied to live on the necessities of life. The subject raises on his truck farm everything that can be grown for the comfort and happiness of his family. His home place is situated on the grand municipal driveway, just outside of the city limits, and contains 12.31 acres of land that is fabulous in its value. The subject indulges himself in just one luxury, viz., the finest and fastest horses that he can buy.

HIS DEAR WIFE.

Mr. Clouston is the owner of one of the greatest fortunes in this country, on the basis of dollars and cents, but his greatest life treasure is his faithful and devoted wife. August 25, 1909, the subject was united in marriage to Miss Ida Fox of Memphis, a young woman of splendid parts and good social standing. She has proved herself to be a splendid wife and companion, and worthy of every consideration that can be bestowed upon her by her appreciative and loving husband.

A STRONG, SENSIBLE MAN.

The subject has an unusual endowment of hard and practical common sense. He is the same kindly disposed and affable man that he ever was, nor has his great wealth caused his hat band to expand. He is the same congenial and well meaning man that he always was. He is a successful man because he deserves to succeed, and he will continue to succeed if the earnest wishes of his many friends have any influence with the goddess of fortune.



A. E. Clouston's Residence

Rural Scene on Clouston Farm

William E. Benson, A.B., Kowaliga, Ala.

PROMOTER.



YEARS ago the writer read the trite saying that "there is nothing new under the sun," and it is probable that he would have gone on for an indefinite period of time laboring under such an erroneous idea if he had not, perchance, made a visit to Kowaliga, Elmore County, Alabama. Now, to those unfortunate persons that do not know it will be perfectly natural to ask, what is Kowaliga, and where is it? What is the origin of its name?

A RURAL PARADISE IN THE PINE LANDS OF ALABAMA.

In answer to the first question it may be said that Kowaliga is a community of interests, rather than a collection of buildings. With the exception of the industrial village of Benson, which forms only a small part, the extensive Kowaliga community measures up neither to the dignity of a town nor a village, but it is a picturesque rural paradise in the hilly pine lands of Alabama, inhabited mostly by thrifty and energetic colored people that are trying to work out a serious economic problem in their rustic life. Kowaliga stands more for sentiment than for population, and it is solving in a unique and practical way one of the most vital problems of the Southland. A town center is soon to be laid out, where five hundred families can buy lots, half way between the school and the industrial settlement at Benson. The former will afford their children unexcelled opportunities for education, and the latter will furnish the grown-up people a chance for earning a good livelihood therein by working at the industries or on the farms.

FORTY MILES NORTH OF MONTGOMERY.

In answer to the second question, Kowaliga is situated about forty miles north of Montgomery, Ala., and sixteen miles from the nearest railroad. It is in the heart of a great agricultural district that teems with members of the colored race, and it is soon to have a railroad, though it is now accessible only by winding mountain roads that pass through sylvan groves and leafy dales, and by rushing brooklets and sparkling springs. It is a veritable Garden of the Gods, and such a country as would excite the poetic instincts of any man.

A STRANGE NAME IS KOWALIGA.

The name of Kowaliga is calculated to bring consternation into the camps of the etymologists, but it is of Indian origin. It sounds



W. E. BENSON

a little sacrilegious to hitch the name of the great prophet of old, Elijah, as a vermiform appendix to a milk-giving bovine. Notwithstanding the eccentric peculiarities of its name, Kowaliga is on the map to stay, and under the vigorous administration of the master mind that holds in its keeping the destiny of this settlement, the world will, from time to time, know a great deal more about that community of latent possibilities, of which Kowaliga is the center.

THE KOWALIGA SCHOOL IS THE CENTER OF INFLUENCE.

First of all, Kowaliga represents a unique idea, and all the industrial activities that are connected with that settlement have in view the social, religious and economic development of the colored race in that particular section of the country. In order that the Kowaliga idea might find its fullest fruition, it was necessary to provide such schools and industrial enterprises as could be made to fit into the lives of the people whose interests were to be subserved. The center whence radiate the most wholesome influences which affect the life of the community is the Kowaliga School. It is not a trade school in the sense of Tuskegee Institute, Hampton Institute and many other luminaries in the educational firmament of the race, but the distinctive idea in the establishment of the Kowaliga School is to meet the educational needs of the school community of which the school is the center. Primarily, its aim is neither to prepare skilled artisans nor highly educated leaders, but to fit the great majority of its students for the life which they are to lead in their home community; to establish an educational, religious and industrial center within immediate reach of the hundreds of boys and girls who will never have access to any other institution of learning, and to encourage and assist the ambitious but precious few that show the ability to gain additional training elsewhere.

BEGAN IN A CABIN SCHOOLHOUSE.

The Kowaliga School was organized in 1896 and incorporated in 1899. It began its career in a cabin schoolhouse, with one teacher, and in the short period of a decade it has grown into an institution of considerable proportions and wide influence. It now has a faculty of twelve teachers, graduates from some of the leading institutions of learning in the land, and an enrollment of 326 students in its main school for the year just closed. Four commodious and substantial buildings and several small ones, which were recently burned, are being rebuilt at a cost of twenty thousand dollars, and other buildings are in contemplation which will run



KOWALIGA SCHOOL

2. Kowaliga School.
4. Noon Day Drill.

1. Recess at Kowaliga School.
3. Faculty of Kowaliga School.

the valuation of the school plant alone to the sum of fifty thousand dollars.

AN IDEAL SITE FOR A SCHOOL.

The site of Kowaliga School is ideal and commands a scenic view that can hardly be surpassed on the American continent. From the crest of the rolling surface that forms the site of the school may be seen nature in all of her exuberance and infinite variety. Diversified hills and dales, tall pines and grand oaks, rocks, rivulets, all in one mad riot of scenic splendor, forming a panorama that is delightful to behold.

EXPENSE OF MAINTAINING THE SCHOOL.

The annual cost of maintaining the school is less than \$7,000, the greater part of which is met by voluntary contributions from philanthropic people. The school has no endowment of consequence, and therefore must necessarily depend upon the generosity and liberality of the friends of the colored race. The founder and director, William E. Benson, is deeply grateful to his friends of both races, North and South, who have contributed to the cause which means so much to the people of the Kowaliga community. There is no contribution that is too small to receive its grateful acceptance. The Kowaliga School has not only sent a dozen or more of its representatives to Tuskegee, Hampton, Talladega College and other schools of a denominational character, but it has directly influenced for good the lives of hundreds of its former students, whose opportunities were restricted by circumstances to the narrow limits of the community where they were born and reared, and where necessarily they must continue to live.

TWO WHEELS REVOLVING.

The benefit of such an institution in a community can not be estimated, and when supplemented by its sister enterprise, the Dixie Industrial Company, which has for its object the furnishing of lucrative employment, they form a powerful influence, which proves a wholesome incentive to keep the young people of the race from drifting to the great urban centers of population by making country life remunerative as well as attractive.

THE REGION'S CLIMATE.

The climate of the region around Kowaliga is salubrious, and the air is entirely free from malarial conditions. The air is light and invigorating, and such as can be found only in regions of similar

altitude above the level of the sea. The climate is very favorable to health seekers and is a veritable paradise for those in need of general recreation and relaxation.

AN EFFECTIVE CORPS OF TEACHERS.

It was the pleasure of the writer to meet some of the teachers that constitute a part of the faculty of Kowaliga School, to whose faithfulness and loyalty Mr. Benson accredits his entire success, and the writer was deeply impressed, both with their ability and the interest that they manifested in their work.

J. J. BENSON.

Mr. William E. Benson, the promoter of all the efforts that have for their object the uplift of the colored people of Kowaliga, is the son of J. J. Benson, one of the pioneer settlers of Kowaliga, and one of the most energetic, most progressive and most wealthy members of the race in the Southland. The father, though born a slave, is a man of great foresight and thrift, and had the sagacity to look forty years into the dim and uncertain future of the race and make his material status stable for all future years. He bought his first farm of 160 acres in the year of 1869, and by successive purchases he increased his landed possessions to more than three thousand acres of productive land, a large part of which, from time to time, he has sold. The father is an all-round genius, and is equally at home as a mechanic, engineer or farmer. Early the father trained his son to travel in the father's footsteps, and to become the skillful, all-round workman that the father himself is.

THE SON A NATIVE OF KOWALIGA.

Mr. William E. Benson, the son, was born amidst the scenic beauty of Kowaliga, and excepting his college days, has lived in Kowaliga all his life. His early educational training was received in the local cabin school, where he applied himself until he went off to school at Nashville, Tenn., for a preparatory course, and thence to college. As a youth the subject spent his time in active work with his father, and today it is just as natural for him to work as it is for the sparks to fly upward. Owing to the fact that the father was a practical mechanic and engineer, the son at the age of seven years was put to the task of minding the engine, and so rapidly did his mechanical ingenuity develop that he had constructed a threshing machine, the exact model of his father's big machine, by the time he had attained to the age of ten years. Hav-



J. J. BENSON

ing begun so early in mechanical work, he soon became highly proficient in the knowledge of machinery and engineering, and he is today one of the best all-round mechanical geniuses in the land. He is of an inventive turn of mind, and has recently patented two inventions, one of which is a combination trunk that is invaluable for commercial purposes when traveling.

A STUDIOUS BOY.

When the subject was a boy he was very studious and very ambitious to excel in his school books, and whenever he went through the country with his father's threshing machine, assisting him as engineer, the subject carried his books and diligently studied them during his leisure moments. He was one of the brightest scholars of the old Kowaliga District School, and was put on exhibition on all public occasions when it was necessary to show off the accomplishments of the school. It was on one of those occasions of the closing exhibitions that the brilliant future of the precocious youth was perceived and made possible.

OFF TO COLLEGE.

Rev. R. C. Bedford, a white friend from the North, was attracted by the intelligence of young Benson, and prevailed upon his father to send the youth off to school. Acting in accordance with this timely suggestion, the father did send the son off to college at Nashville, Tenn., in which he was able to make the middle preparatory class. He remained at Fisk University until he had completed the preparatory work, when he matriculated at Howard University, Washington, D. C., from which institute he graduated in 1895 with the degree of Bachelor of Arts. While at college he added to his practical knowledge of machinery and industrial work that thorough training and discipline which only a classical education can give and thus made himself a far more proficient man than he would have otherwise been.

EDUCATED TO WORK.

If the object of education is to prepare for the duties and responsibilities of life, the subject of this sketch is a happy illustration of this fact. With him education has ever had a specific purpose, and that purpose should be to prepare man for that particular life that he is to live and to enable him to serve in that capacity with the greatest degree of efficiency. During his whole college career of six long years he ever had in mind the work for which he was preparing himself, and to whose success he had dedicated

the energies of his life. So, as soon as he had received his diploma of graduation from Howard University he immediately returned home to begin the formation and assume the active management of the great industrial plant which he had conceived. All of the stupendous achievements of the Kowaliga School and the organization of the Dixie Industrial Company have centered around Mr. Benson, and in the whole enterprise he has shown an originality of mind and a power of execution that can hardly find a parallel in the industrial and economic development of the colored race.

THE DIXIE INDUSTRIAL COMPANY.

The original Kowaliga School was one and but one unit in his scheme for the development of the race. He thought that in addition to an education the boys and girls should be given some opportunity to put their training into practical use. He therefore planned an industrial enterprise that would go far in advance of the school and develop the natural resources of the community, and prepare the finished products for the marts of trade. With this great object in view he organized the Dixie Industrial Company in the year of 1900. It is incorporated under the laws of the State of Alabama, and now has a paid-up capital of \$100,000 and a small surplus. The company owns ten thousand (10,000) acres of splendid farm and timber lands. It operates a sawmill as complete as can be found in the South. The machinery of the industrial plant is of the most recent make, and was purchased for efficiency regardless of cost. The sawmill is a complete wood working plant, and was built at a cost of \$40,000. There is a turpentine distillery for extracting turpentine from gum, and there is a retort plant for distilling turpentine from the pine wood. The promoters of this plant for distillation realized the fact that this is an age of utility, and they have managed to utilize the by-products of everything that can be found in connection with the pine tree except its shade. The company has a 3-70 saw complete ginnery, with steel tramper, double revolving press and automatic unloader. This outfit is capable of ginning and compressing a bale of cotton in twenty minutes. The company also has a cotton seed and fertilizer mill. The company's general store is one of the great mercantile establishments of Kowaliga, and does a business to the value of many thousand dollars annually. On the farming lands of the Dixie Company there is a population of three hundred souls, one-tenth of whom are whites, who promptly pay their rents and cultivate the good will, peace and confidence of all about them. It is a compliment to the management of the company that its system of dealing with its patrons is so just and reasonable that its patrons, white and black alike, can



TRAMWAY TO SAW MILL

get along with each other in peace and amity. In addition to the multitude of common laborers employed by the company, it has in its employment a dozen or more trained bookkeepers, clerks, superintendents and the like. Some of these trained employes are graduates of some of the best schools and colleges in the land.

WORK PROVIDED FOR ALL.

The distinctive feature of the Kowaliga idea is to provide employment for every individual of the community, from the children in the schools to the parents on the farms and in the industries. It is in a measure a reasonable solution of the problem of the social, industrial and economic development of the race. The writer was astounded by the magnitude of the Kowaliga idea, and he was compelled to admit that there is really something "new under the sun." The results of the writer's investigations make the writer marvel but the more at the genius and resourcefulness of the young man whose life work is as astonishing as it is far-reaching and beneficent. His originality and versatility of mind peculiarly adapt him to the great work in which he is engaged. He is an authority in every department of the industrial plant, and is capable of getting results that would be impossible with men of less ability. In the person of Mr. Benson the writer perceives a virile, undying force that is capable of coping with the unlimited possibilities which the great educational and industrial plants under his management present. In the domain of industry his name should be captain, and in the fields of finance it should be Napoleon. He is the Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Kowaliga School, and President of the Dixie Industrial Company. He is the active, controlling power behind the Kowaliga idea in whatever form it may manifest itself. His business operations are on a scale that is beyond the ability of an ordinary man.

AN EXTRAORDINARY MAN.

The subject is a modest man, and gives to his father and those that are associated with the subject all of the credit for his great success. He conducts the business at Kowaliga on a safe and sane principle, and his pronounced success in this particular should be a valuable lesson to others. In his relation to his multitude of employes he accords to them every possible courtesy. He has not resorted to noise, bluster and billingsgate to get the required work out of the men in his employment, but he has ever been just and considerate, and has succeeded in getting out of his men a maximum of service for a minimum of annoyance. He does not believe in the efficacy of rough speech, threats and intimidation to get work out

of his men, but he believes in the living principles of the Golden Rule. As measured by his achievements, the subject is a highly successful man. He is an organizer and a worker, and he has the power of initiative that few men of the race possess. He has the ability to carry on to successful conclusion a great many different enterprises at one time. He is a convincing conversationalist, and undoubtedly ought to be a convincing orator. Nature has been liberal with him, and has conferred upon him a personal pulchritude that is seldom given to the men of the same race. He takes a serious view of life, and is always studying and planning for the mastery of some of life's problems. There is nothing that is at all commonplace in his character. He is high-toned to the core and never loses his dignity. He is at all times a business man, and prefers to talk along business lines. He seems to be dominated by an all-consuming purpose, and this purpose permeates his actions and his conversation.

A TALENTED FAMILY.

Not only did Dr. Bedford manifest interest in the welfare of the subject, but he was equally interested in the education and success of the other children of the Benson family. Miss Lula Benson, now Mrs. Lula Barabin of Marianna, Ark., is the wife of Dr. J. H. Barabin, one of the most successful physicians in the State of Arkansas. She is a graduate of Tuskegee Normal Institute and also was a student at Fisk University and Oberlin College. She is a musician of ability, and is as pleasant in disposition as she is superior in musical ability. Miss Mattie Benson, now Mrs. F. J. Manley, is also a graduate of Tuskegee Normal Institute, and later studied dressmaking and designing at the famous Pratt Polytechnic Institute, Brooklyn, N. Y. She is now leading the simple life of a farmer's spouse, and is the estimable wife of Mr. F. J. Manley, formerly head of the printing division of Tuskegee Institute.

CREDIT TO HIS CO-WORKERS.

The subject is in a class by himself in push, originality and ability combined, and no other man has derived greater pleasure from acquaintance with him than the humble writer of this sketch. The subject does not take unto himself undue credit for all that he has accomplished for Kowaliga. He is sincerely grateful to the little band of men and women who have stood at his side as co-workers through all of these years, and he is keenly conscious of the fact that without their help, sympathy and loyalty his efforts to a large degree would have been a failure.

J. T. Settle, A.M., LL.B., Memphis, Tenn.

ATTORNEY AND COUNSELLOR.



THE age of oratory is not dead, all statements to the contrary notwithstanding. The law governing the amount of true oratory in the world is similar to the great doctrine of the conservation of energy which ascribes indestructibility to energy as well as matter. The sum total of oratory in the world is the same today as it ever was, but it is in a latent state, and therefore is not revealed to man. As the world has progressed from barbarism and human rights and human liberty have been more safeguarded, there has been less occasion for display of that eloquence that characterized former times. Human wrongs and oppression are the true sources of eloquence. There must be the occasion to electrify the heart, revivify the soul and communicate to the tongue the vital spark of human sentiment, which is the real basis of all oratory. The harp of eloquence is the instrument on whose golden strings the dissatisfied soul sends forth its message of unrest to the world.

In the early days of this republic there were mighty men, notable the world over for their eloquence, but the source of their eloquence was the same that has in all ages of the world set on fire the tongues of men. The age of oratory will never die as long as there are human wrongs to be righted or human inequalities to be adjusted. This is the brief life story of a man whose innate gifts as an orator have hardly had a parallel in the history of the nation. The fact that this king of eloquent men is still moving, breathing and having his being among the walks of men is concrete, living proof of the statement that the age of true oratory is not dead.

HIS BIRTHPLACE.

Hon. Josiah T. Settle, the gifted subject of this sketch, was born on the summit of the Cumberland Mountains in East Tennessee while his parents were in transit from Rockingham County, North Carolina, to the State of Mississippi. While his birthplace was expected to be in the State of Mississippi, yet it became the happy lot of the old Volunteer State to enroll the subject in the galaxy of her native sons.

OF DISTINGUISHED ANCESTRY.

The subject's father was a member of the famous Settle family of North Carolina, and the royal character of his blood was shown by his perfect devotion to his children and his willingness to care



J. T. SETTLE, ESQ.

for them, protect them and give to them the blessings of education. This kind father manumitted his slave wife and all of her eight children while he was residing in the State of Mississippi, but in the year of 1856 he moved his family to Hamilton, Ohio, where the welfare of his wife and children would be better safeguarded than it might have been if they had continued to reside in the State of Mississippi. He was a wealthy planter in the State of Mississippi, and resided there until the beginning of the Civil War, when he found it prudent to quit the South because of his Northern sympathies. He came North and remained with his family until his death in 1869.

HIS EDUCATION.

Hamilton, Ohio, was the theater of the subject's youthful educational activities until he was sixteen years old, when his parents sent him to Oberlin, Ohio, where he prepared for college. In the year of 1868 the subject matriculated in the freshman class of Oberlin College, but he transferred his allegiance to Howard University, Washington, D. C., when he was in his sophomore year at Oberlin, and succeeded in making a similar classification at Howard University. He graduated from the college department of Howard University in the year of 1872 and thus had the honor of being a member of the first graduating class from that university.

A GRADUATE IN LAW IN 1875.

The subject having graduated from the College of Arts of Howard University in 1872, immediately matriculated in the law department of the university for the purpose of preparing himself for the legal profession. The subject was very fortunate in taking up the study of law at that particular time at Howard University, for at the head of that department was that prince of scholars and lawyers, Hon. J. M. Langston, who was not only gifted in jurisprudence, but he was one of the ablest men in the history of the American nation. With such an eminent scholar, orator and statesman to illumine his legal pathway and inspire the subject to put forth his best efforts, it is reasonable to suppose that the ancient study of law conferred upon the subject quite as much of pleasure as it did profit. After three years of careful and persistent application to the study of law, the subject graduated from the College of Law of Howard University with the degree of Bachelor of Laws in the year of 1875.

ENTERED POLITICAL LIFE EARLY.

In the latter part of the subject's senior year in the College of Arts of Howard University in 1872, he was elected Reading Clerk of the House of Delegates of the District of Columbia, and served

one session. On July 9, 1873, he was appointed Clerk in the Board of Public Works of the District of Columbia at a salary of \$1,200 per annum, and remained in that capacity until that department of the municipal government ceased to exist. In the year of 1873 he was honored with appointment to membership on the School Board of the District of Columbia, a position which he filled for two years, and one to which he was re-appointed, but was unable to serve because of quitting the district for the purpose of locating in the South. On August 29, 1874, the subject was appointed a clerk in the Board of Audit of the District of Columbia, a board whose duties were to adjust the indebtedness of the former Board of Public Works. He served in that capacity until the board had completed its official task and expired by statutory act of Congress.

A BUSY STUDENT IN COLLEGE.

While the gifted subject was a student both in the College of Arts and the College of Law of Howard University, he was burdened with serious official responsibility. At the time of his graduation from the College of Arts he was a tutor in the university, a student in the university and Reading Clerk of the House of Delegates of the District of Columbia. His experience while a law student in the university was a continuation of his experience in the College of Arts, for he continued to occupy the center of the stage of political activity, and developed a political influence and power unprecedented in the life of any student in the history of the university. His superior talents not only enabled him to serve in various political capacities while a student at Howard University, but compelled his recognition as an orator in the political campaigns of those early days. In the year of 1872 he was a power on the hustings in his advocacy of the principles of the Republican party, and early established himself as one of the best young political orators of the North.

SOUTH TO PRACTICE LAW.

In the year of 1875 the subject, having graduated from the law department of Howard University, resigned his various positions in the District of Columbia, went South to practice law, and located in Sardis, Miss.

A REMARKABLE POLITICAL CAREER.

Though the brilliant subject of this sketch had located in the State of Mississippi to practice the profession for which he had been so carefully prepared, yet the fates had already decreed that

he should be called upon to serve the welfare of his countrymen in other fields of usefulness in addition to his practice before the bar of public justice. He had hardly put his feet on Mississippi soil before he was unanimously nominated by the Republican party for the exalted position of District Attorney of the Twelfth Judicial District of Mississippi. Under normal political conditions the said district was overwhelmingly Republican, but the historic political year of 1875 witnessed a general political revolution in the State of Mississippi, as well as in all of the other States of the South, and the result was that the subject was sacrificed on the altar of defeat, just as were all the rest. In the year of 1876 the subject was honored with election as delegate to the National Republican Convention, which convened in the city of Cincinnati, Ohio. As delegate from the Commonwealth of Mississippi, he was the only one from that State to vote for the nomination of Hon. Roscoe Conkling for President of the United States, and the subject persisted in his support of the distinguished statesman with the hyperion curls as long as his name was before the convention. It was a delegation of political celebrities that represented the State of Mississippi in the National Republican Convention at Cincinnati in the year of 1876. Ex-Governor Alcorn, ex-Governor Ames, Hon. B. K. Bruce, Hon. James Hill and others formed a part of the august delegation in question, but the brilliant subject, though he was a newcomer to the State and the youngest man in the delegation, was accorded the honor of seconding the nomination of Gen. Stewart L. Woodford of New York for the office of Vice-President of the United States. In this same year of the "political deluge" in Mississippi the subject was nominated as one of the presidential electors for the State at large on the National Republican ticket, and he made a vigorous and effective canvass of the whole State in the interest of the standard bearers of the Republican party.

In the memorable campaign of 1880 the subject was honored with the nomination of presidential elector on the Garfield and Arthur ticket, and his eloquent efforts in behalf of the nominees of the Republican party had much to do with the popular majority which was given them and which resulted in their election to the presidency and vice-presidency of the United States. In the year of 1882 pressure was brought to bear upon the subject with the view of his acceptance of the nomination for Congress in the Second Congressional District of Mississippi, but he not only declined the honor, but he did the graceful act of himself nominating Gen. James R. Chalmers for that high office. Having been made Chairman of the Republican Congressional Executive Committee, the subject made an active and vigorous canvass of the district in advocacy

of the election of the Republican nominee, and materially contributed to the splendid majority that was given Gen. Chalmers.

A MEMBER OF THE MISSISSIPPI LEGISLATURE.

In the year of 1883 one of the crowning honors of the subject's life was conferred upon him by his nomination and election to the Legislature of Mississippi. In Panola County there was a re-alignment of political forces caused by the coalition of the Republican party with the Democratic party. This re-alignment of forces resulted in the nomination of an independent ticket whose standard bearer was the able orator and brilliant attorney whose name graces the head of this sketch. Great were those days in the political life of Panola County. Political independence was such a novelty in that State that the voters were stirred up as they had never been before. The eloquent nominee on the independent ticket met on the political hustings the most able and the most gifted orators of the opposition, but so startling was the ability that he displayed and so statesmanlike were his utterances in the campaign that his political adherents, with the irresistible force of the Macedonian phalanx, swept everything before them and elected him to the Legislature of Mississippi by a majority of more than 1,200.

When the subject took his seat as a member of the Mississippi Legislature from Panola County, it is doubtful if there had ever been elected to any other legislature in this country a new member that in ability, training and experience was better qualified to serve the interests of the people of his State, and there is no doubt but that the subject's race was the only thing that kept him from the highest honors that could have been conferred upon him by the voters of his State. Notwithstanding the fact that he had been elected on an independent ticket, the subject affiliated with the Republican party in the Legislature. His Republicanism has ever been of the uncompromising variety, the Republicanism of Lincoln, Blaine, Garfield and a host of true American patriots, whose political principles were as lasting as the towering rock on Gibraltar's coast. As an orator the subject was easily in the front rank of the membership of the lower house. His oratory was a revelation to the members of the House, and it was an era in the deliberations of that body when the eloquent member from Panola County had the ear of the Speaker.

The experience of the subject while a member of the Legislature of Mississippi was very pleasant, for he was the recipient of many kindnesses from his colleagues on both sides of the legislative chamber. Not only was his remarkable intellectual endowment recognized by his colleagues, but his kindliness of heart, his affability

and his unaffected demeanor. Whether as a member of the Legislature or lawyer at the bar, or orator on the platform, or the center of a social gathering, there are many admirable qualities in the character of the subject that have always commended him to popular favor. Such was the case when he was a member of the Legislature of Mississippi, for he was the honored recipient of a gold-headed walking cane as a token of the great esteem in which he was held by the members of the lower house. The speech of presentation was made by Col. Baker, one of the brilliant and eloquent young members of the House, and was in every respect a worthy effort from a worthy source. The subject treasures this cane as one of the most precious mementoes of his life. The subject was treated with great kindness by the public press of the State, and the Jackson Clarion was especially kind in its attitude to the eloquent and dashing young orator from Panola County.

HANGS OUT HIS SHINGLE IN MEMPHIS, TENN.

Having served in the Legislature of Mississippi, the subject began to tire of the turmoil of political life, and decided to abandon politics for the practice of his profession. With this object in view he quit the State of Mississippi, moved to the city of Memphis, and began his career as a practicing lawyer in the State of Tennessee in the year of 1885.

ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE CRIMINAL COURT.

The advent of Lawyer J. T. Settle in legal circles in the city of Memphis produced a kind of sensation, for the natives of the Bluff City had never before heard such an eloquent advocate. He at once leaped to such a fame that he became the cynosure of the Memphis bar. In two months after the gifted lawyer had located in Memphis his great legal ability and remarkable oratorical talents made such a profound impression on General G. P. M. Turner, the Attorney General of the Criminal Court of Shelby County, that he appointed Lawyer Settle as Assistant Attorney General of the Criminal Court. The subject performed the onerous duties of his office with signal ability. Owing to the frequent absence of the Attorney General himself, the great burden of prosecution fell upon the able and willing shoulders of the subject, who for two whole years managed the affairs of that exalted office with such splendid ability that he won the admiration of judges and juries alike. At the time of the subject's incumbency as Assistant Attorney General of the Criminal Court of Shelby County, Judge Addison H. Douglas presided on the bench of the Criminal Court. The

distinguished judge was not only learned in the law, but he had many of those personal characteristics that endeared him to the people who had elevated him to that exalted judicial position. The high appreciation that was entertained for the subject by Judge Addison H. Douglas may be known by the judge's highly complimentary letter concerning Assistant Attorney General Settle.

THE LETTER OF JUDGE DOUGLAS.

"It is at all times a pleasant duty to offer commendation to those whose exemplary professional deportment has been such as to challenge attention. This is peculiarly appropriate in reference to those who have had the good fortune to be admitted to practice in the courts of the country; for in that capacity, with all of its surroundings of contact and associations, a man more readily and certainly develops his true character than almost anywhere else. I am led to these observations in part by closely scrutinizing the general deportment of members of the bar, both from the bench and as an associate practitioner.

"A remarkable instance occurs to me at present in this connection in the character and conduct of J. T. Settle, Esq. He settled in Memphis about the year of 1885, having recently served in the Legislature of the State of Mississippi, and shortly after locating in the practice in this city, he was appointed Assistant Attorney General, which position he continued to fill two or three years with marked ability and fidelity. His uniform attention to official business, his manly courtesy and amiability won for him the esteem and respect of the bench, the bar and litigants, and went very far to break down the existing prejudice against his color in the profession. His talent is fully recognized and his integrity has in no instance been in the least questioned from any source.

"He prosecuted without acerbity and with fairness, but neglected no legitimate resources to fix conviction upon the really guilty. He is such a master of elocution and displays such fluency and indeed brilliancy that he invariably captivated those who listened to him. He is remarkably simple in his manners, and utterly without ostentation, and an honor to his profession. Respectfully,

"A. H. DOUGLAS."

A BUSY AND SUCCESSFUL LAWYER.

After the expiration of his term of office as Assistant Attorney General of the Criminal Court, the subject again settled down to the practice of his profession. Although he was comparatively a stranger in the city of Memphis in the year of 1887, when he resumed his regular practice of the legal profession, yet he was borne on the flood-tide of appreciation and legal success. The

extraordinary ability that he exhibited in the performance of his duties as prosecuting attorney of Shelby County, and the remarkable success that he achieved in that capacity gave to him the encouragement and patronage of an unusual number of clients, and at once put him in the front ranks of the lawyers in the Memphis bar. For more than a quarter of a century the worthy subject, in spite of his racial identity, has been one of the leaders of the Memphis bar, and there are few advocates at the bar that have a more lucrative practice than he.

HIS TRIBUTE TO THE WHITE LAWYERS OF THE SOUTH.

The profession of law is the only one of the so-called learned professions that gives opportunity to the colored man to strive for the mastery, in a cause affecting human rights, with towering intellects of the world, irrespective of race, color or previous condition. In the practice of law the judiciary are white, the jurors are white, and the laws that have been crystallized on the statute books of the South have had in view the welfare of the dominant race. Therefore, there is every possible incentive for the colored lawyer to strive for the mastery. The colored lawyer is compelled to meet as antagonists before the bar of public justice men whose ancestors had wrested the charter of English liberty from King John, and whose children have inherited from them legal training, just as they have inherited other personal characteristics. However, the experience of Lawyer Settle with his white fellow practitioners at the bar has been extremely pleasant, and he has been accorded every kindness and consideration by them. His actual treatment has not been affected because of his race, for it is his belief that he could not have been treated more kindly nor have been given more consideration if he were a member of the dominant race, instead of his own race. He feels deeply grateful to the members of the Memphis bar for their continued kindly consideration, extending over a period of more than a quarter of a century of active practice, and he does not think that there is a colored lawyer in Memphis that is treated with greater kindness and consideration than he is by the noble advocates at the Memphis bar. This tribute applies to lawyers, judges and juries alike, and is the candid expression of a man who is proud to publish to the world the fact that in the practice of his profession in the city of Memphis he has known no positive discrimination because of his race or color.

STEP BY STEP TO THE TOP OF THE LEGAL LADDER.

The brilliant and gifted subject of this sketch has a career in the legal profession of which any lawyer in any age of jurispru-

dence may well be proud, for his own indomitable will and extraordinary talents have enabled him step by step to mount to the top of the legal ladder. As soon as he had received his diploma of graduation from the law department of Howard University he was admitted to the bar of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia. He was subsequently admitted to the practice of his profession in several of the Southern States, and finally he received the crowning glory of his professional career by being admitted to practice before the highest tribunal of justice in the land. The United States Supreme Court is the court of last resort in the land, and in its archives, hoary with age, is the pent-up legal wisdom of the teeming centuries that have come down to it from time immemorial. Just as the United States Supreme Court is the highest tribunal of justice for the nation, in like manner the lawyers that have the honor of appearing before this august tribunal represent the best in the legal profession in point of ability, experience and high character. It is the privilege of few lawyers to be admitted to practice before the Supreme Court of the United States, and when such a privilege is accorded it is incontrovertible evidence of the highest legal attainments. On motion of Gen. S. A. Putnam, the able and brilliant subject of this sketch was admitted to practice in the Supreme Court of the United States April 20, 1903.

HIS POLITICAL CAREER IN TENNESSEE.

There is something that is very seductive in the game of politics. If a man has ability of the highest order, and is endowed with that degree of eloquence that enables him to sway the multitude, it is not an easy thing to withstand the allurements of political life. In the memorable political year of 1888 the subject became a member of the Republican State Executive Committee, and it was his honor to serve continuously longer on this committee than any other politician of the race in the history of the Republican organization in Tennessee, for he remained on the committee for sixteen years.

In the year of 1892 the subject was elected a delegate to the Republican National Convention in Minneapolis. In 1896 he was elected alternate delegate from the State at large to the Republican National Convention at St. Louis, which nominated the lamented William J. McKinley. In 1900 the subject was elected a delegate from the State at large to the Republican National Convention at Philadelphia. In 1904 he was alternate delegate from the State at large to the Republican National Convention at Chicago, which nominated Theodore Roosevelt for the presidency. He is still highly appreciated in the councils of the Republican party, and his eloquent exposition of Republican principles for over a quarter of a

century has done much for the ascendancy of the historic party in the grand old Volunteer State.

A CONSISTENT CHURCH WORKER.

It is a beautiful thought by some writer, who says that all men, like apples and pears, should grow mellow with increasing years. Such, indeed, has been the experience in the life of the worthy subject of this sketch, for as his eyes have gradually turned toward the occident of life he has considered more and more the spiritual side of life, and his labors are largely restricted to church and social work. He feels grateful to the Almighty Power for the wonderful success that has attended his efforts during all of the days of his life. He has ever enjoyed the confidence and respect of his fellowmen, and the passing years have but the more intensified his worldly success. He is one of the pillars of Emmanuel Episcopal Church, and his personal efforts and means are at the pleasure of the church whose principles, moral, religious and otherwise, he has long since learned to love.

HIS WORLDLY GOODS.

Lawyer J. T. Settle has been one of the busiest men in Christendom all of his life. His life of onerous responsibility began when he was a member of the College of Arts of Howard University, and has continued to a certain degree until the present time. He has been devoted to his profession, and has made success in his profession the consuming ambition of his life. Not only has he gained nearly unprecedented success in the practice of his profession, but he has honestly made a considerable quantity of the goods of this world. He has always lived in a manner befitting his station in life, but he has also made a substantial provision for the future of his family and the possible infirmities of his own old age. He has very valuable property in the city of Memphis, and all of it is located in the exclusive sections of the city. A conservative estimate of his various properties would place the value of his worldly goods at \$50,000 to \$60,000.

HIS ACCOMPLISHED AND DEVOTED WIFE.

Not only has the wonderful eloquence of Lawyer Settle been used in pleading the cause of his clients before the bar of public justice, but it has successfully been used in pleading his own cause, and it is more than probable that this particular effort was the most effective plea that he ever made in his life, for it resulted in his winning the hand, heart and life companionship of his

accomplished and devoted wife. On March 20, 1890, the subject led to the altar as his bride Miss Fannie A. McCollough of Memphis, Tenn. She was a vocalist of unusual ability, and for years was the leading musical artist of the city of Memphis. So highly esteemed was her musical ability that she was at the head of the music department of LeMoyne Normal Institute at the time of her marriage. It has been the good fortune of few men to have such a faithful and devoted companion as has the subject of this sketch. She is a sensible woman, and seems to have been created especially for the inspiration and protection of the man who has been her husband and counsellor for these many years. Two children have blessed the union of this devoted couple, Josiah T. Settle, Jr., and Francis McCollough Settle. These boys have been given every educational advantage that money could provide and they ought to be able to take up the reins of power at the point where fate should decree for their able father to leave off, and lead the name of Settle on and on where it belongs, to the zenith of the constellation of American greatness.

THE PERSONALITY OF LAWYER SETTLE.

To have a naturally charming personality is one of the most valuable personal assets that can be conferred upon a man. The subject is a man of engaging, magnetic personality, and enjoys the distinction of being one of the most popular men in the city of Memphis. Notwithstanding the fact that the subject is one of the best educated men in America, and has had honors of every kind conferred upon him, yet he has never been conceited or puffed up with importance, and he is still the quintessence of simplicity and modesty in all things pertaining to his own personal attainments and achievements. He is at heart one of nature's noblemen, and his reward is the grateful appreciation, admiration and love of a host of friends.

ORATORY STILL LIVES.

The superb lawyer and grand advocate is one of the few great orators of the present day, and to see and hear his matchless oratory on some grand occasion is just like turning back the curtain of the dead past and readmitting to the scene some of the giants of oratory whose efforts now linger only in the portals of memory. Nature seems to have made special preparation for his oratorical excellence, for she gave to him a charm of manner, a suavity of speech, a fluency of choice and precise diction and a grand presence, such as few men ever had. His voice is one of the most magnificent that ever thrilled an audience, and when displayed to the fullest extent

of its possibilities it is enough to invoke the shades of the dead orators of past generations and make them wish to revisit these mundane shores to live anew those glorious days of terrestrial life. As a gifted orator he takes the front rank with the eminent orators of America, and his wonderful gift of public speech is the glory, not only of the Negro race in America, but of the whole American nation.



E. P. Brown, M.D., Greenville, Miss.



IN ALL ages of the world mankind has honored genius. It is a God-given power which overreaches all distinctions in human society based upon the accident of birth or the circumstances of environment. It is not the exclusive possession of any individual, race or nation; it does not depend upon the color of one's skin, the texture of one's hair, nor the identity of one's race, for genius knows no color line. It is but simple justice to the Negro race to assign to it the credit of having contributed its part to the sum total of advanced thinkers, the pioneers in business and professional life, the master minds of the world, and the geniuses of civilization. Eminent men of the race have contributed much to original scientific research, have fathomed the depths of nature's innermost secrets, and have given to mankind the benefits of their labor.

In every branch of business and professional endeavor some daring and transcending genius has blazed the way from the beaten paths of ordinary achievement to such a marvelous development along various lines in the past few years as to open to the race a vista of possibilities of which hitherto it had never dreamed. The subject of this sketch, Dr. E. P. Brown, of Greenville, Mississippi, by a life of earnest endeavor, achievement and success in both the business and the professional world, has placed his name high upon that roll of great men of the race whose genius, like a beacon light, has illumined the way to business and professional success. He is a man broad of intellect, deep of thought and strong, morally, physically and financially. He is indeed one of the best examples of successful men in the ranks of the whole race.

BORN A SLAVE.

He was born a slave at Holmesville, Pike County, Mississippi, December 13, 1856, and though a child of tender years when the immortal Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, he remembers many of the horrors incident to the life of slavery, and received impressions thus early which have served through life to spur him on to greater effort.

HIS LITERARY TRAINING.

Very few men of any race ever made such a vigorous and determined effort to acquire an education as this child, to whom the use of books was denied by the law of the land. While yet a child, though a slave, he learned to read and managed to pick up considerable information from books by reason of chance association with



DR. E. P. BROWN

the master class. Nature had endowed him with a mind that, sponge-like, absorbed everything around him within the limits of his youthful understanding. But it was after the days of freedom had come that his real, earnest, intellectual struggles began. People who live in these glorious days of twentieth century educational opportunities cannot fully appreciate the primitive character of the schools of the early days succeeding the Civil War. That race, but recently emerged from the depths of slavery, had no intellectual men in the South to fill the school rooms as teachers, and if it had not been for the kindly interest of many Northern veterans of the Civil War, who continued to remain in the South after that internecine struggle had ended, the educational hope of the race would have been deferred much longer than it was. One of the first teachers of this child was a member of that class of white people to which reference has just been made, and he did much to stimulate the boy's desire to master books and fathom the mysteries of learning. The lad was precocious and easily mastered the work which was then prescribed in the common schools of Pike County. He then studied privately under some of the best teachers in the State of Mississippi and finally finished his school life with a course of instruction (electives) at Central Tennessee College, now Walden University, Nashville, Tenn. The great ambition of his life when a youth was to acquire a classical education, backed up with a diploma of graduation from one of the leading colleges then open to the race in America, but his ambition was only partially realized. He is, however, one of the most intellectual men of the race, and the possession of a college diploma could have added but little to his reputation as a profound thinker and intellectual man.

A SCHOOLMASTER AT SIXTEEN.

Before becoming one of the leading physicians of the race, the worthy subject of this sketch was one of the most progressive and most successful teachers in the common schools of his native State. He began his career as a schoolmaster at the early age of sixteen years, and taught for thirteen consecutive years in Pike, Lincoln and Amite Counties. While he was one of the most capable teachers in the common schools of his State, and did his whole duty toward those sacred minds that were entrusted to his care, yet he had never aspired to make the teachers' profession his life work. When a mere lad he had resolved to be a doctor of medicine, and it was through the instrumentality of teaching that he calculated on gaining such a competence as would enable him to carry out the plans of his life. He abandoned the profession of teaching in the year of 1886, for he was then prepared to begin the practice of a pro-

fession that has for its object the alleviation of the ills of suffering humanity.

A GRADUATE OF MEHARRY MEDICAL COLLEGE.

The autumn of 1883 was the turning point in the life of this young man, for it was then that he was to realize the ambition of his life. In that memorable year he matriculated at Meharry Medical College, and began therein three years of patient application and diligent research that were finally to bring their rich reward. The medical course at that time was two years, not only at Meharry, but in most of the great medical colleges in the land. This young doctor was anxious to make the most thorough preparation possible for his future work, for he appreciated more than the average student the magnitude of the undertaking to understand the structure of the human body and the thousand and one remedies for its relief. Instead of being satisfied with the two years' course, he decided that it would be wise for him to study three years in serious preparation for success. The wisdom of his course is evident from the remarkable proficiency that he showed in his medical examinations, where he stood very high in every subject in the course. He was one of the best prepared physicians that the institution ever turned out, and when he graduated in the year of 1886 and went forth from the classic halls of his alma mater to practice the principles of the medical profession, the college authorities felt confident of his ability to maintain the highest standards in his profession.

A MEDICAL PRACTITIONER AT UTICA, MISSISSIPPI.

After his graduation from Meharry Medical College, the newly-fledged doctor first hung out his shingle at Utica, Mississippi, August 9, 1886. He was successful from the very beginning of his career. He practiced in that section of the State for three years, and was so successful that he accumulated quite a fortune. He was a man of exemplary habits, and had nothing to hinder his progress. He was married while a young man, and had a family consisting of a wife and four children at the time of his graduation. Thus he was a man of thought as well as responsibility, and had no difficulty in rapidly mounting the ladder of professional fame and wealth.

THE DOCTOR'S LOVING AND LIFE COMPANION.

Dr. Brown's great success in both his business and professional life has been largely due to the inspiration of his devoted wife, who cheerfully cast her lot with him when he was a young man, without any worldly possession except his determination to make his mark



TOP ROW—MRS. E. P. BROWN

EARL NUGENT BROWN

BOTTOM ROW—NOEL PATRICK BROWN DR. DAISY ESTELLE BROWN

in life. The lady of his choice was a Miss Rhodelia Collins, of Summit, Mississippi. She received her education in the public school in Summit, and taught a few years in the common school system of her native State. They were married on January 16, 1879, and the two have walked hand in hand down the road of life, sharing each other's sorrows and joys, content and happy in each other's confidence, true to the pledge that they had made at the altar, and ambitious to rear and educate the children whom God had entrusted to their protection and care. Mrs. Brown is an earnest, faithful woman in everything that she attempts, and is one of the best companions with whom a man was ever blessed. While Dr. Brown is indeed a great man, his dear wife helped to make him so. She is even greater than her husband along her line, and the doctor cheerfully concedes superiority to her and everlasting appreciation for her faithfulness and devotion, extending over a period of nearly a third of a century.

THEIR CHILDREN.

The eldest of the children of this union is Mr. Emerson Wentworth Brown. He is a graduate of Alcorn A. & M. College, West Side, Mississippi, and he is now blessed with a wife who has an eye single to his every interest. He is an expert shoe manufacturer, having finished his trade while a student at Alcorn University. He is at present the proprietor of the "Never Sleep Shoe Shop" of St. Louis, Mo. He has the most complete and the most up-to-date establishment of its kind in the city of St. Louis, Mo., and it is a great compliment to the workmanship, push and resources of the young man. Mr. E. W. Brown studied for two years at Meharry Medical College, and contemplates completing his course at no distant day. He is very popular and has a host of friends, who believe in him. Mr. Nugent Brown is a graduate of Oberlin Academy, class of 1910, and is now studying dentistry at Meharry Medical College, Nashville, Tenn.

Mr. Noel Patrick Brown is a graduate from Oberlin College, class of 1911. He is a splendid scholar or he would not bring home credentials from such a worthy and honored alma mater.

Dr. Daisy Estelle Brown is a young woman of whom any parent would be proud. She is one of the best educated young women in America, and has enjoyed advantages that few of the young women of the race have ever been able to enjoy. She has had every advantage for the cultivation of her intellect, but she is in no sense a spoiled darling. On the contrary, she is one of the most practical young women that one may meet in a day's journey. Her education has cost her parents a considerable sum, and she is proving worthy of every dollar that was spent. She attended Mary Holmes Semi-



Emerson Wentworth Brown and Mrs. Emerson Wentworth Brown

nary, Spellman Seminary and subsequently graduated from Atlanta Baptist College with the degree of Bachelor of Arts. She is an accomplished musician, having attended the Oberlin Conservatory of Music. In the year 1907 she graduated from the Women's Medical College, Philadelphia, Pa., one of the leading medical colleges in the United States, and probably the best known medical

college that is devoted exclusively to the education of women. She passed the State Board of Medical Examiners of the State of Mississippi in October, 1907, and had the honor of standing first in the examination of eighty successful applicants. She is associate physician with her distinguished father, and the two make a unique and invincible medical combination. She has a good practice, and fills an endearing place in the affections of the weak and afflicted of her sex.

AN ABLE PHYSICIAN.

Dr. E. P. Brown enjoys the distinction of being one of the ablest physicians in the South. He is a progressive type of medical practitioner and keeps abreast the times. He is passionately fond of the practice of his profession, and has kept up with all the most recent theories, discoveries and curative medicines in the domain of practice. When he passed his examination for a license to practice in the State of Mississippi he created quite a sensation among the wise-acres of that time. He is one of the most gifted physicians that the South has ever produced, and would be an ornament to the profession in any country and in any age.

PRESIDENT OF DELTA SAVINGS BANK.

Dr. Brown is not only one of the great physicians of the Negro race, but he is also one of its greatest financiers. He is a man as well up in the principles of business life as he is in the practice of medicine, and because of his two-fold ability in this respect he has accumulated one of the largest fortunes in the ranks of the race. He has made his money legitimately, and there is not a spot on his financial escutcheon. Recognizing this fact, the people of his State have great confidence in his ability, both as a business man and professional man, and they have been pleased to place him at the head of the Delta Savings Bank, Greenville, Miss. As President his business integrity and great financial strength give a solidity to the bank and a confidence in its management that make this bank one of the strongest in the State.

MOVED TO GREENVILLE, MISS., IN 1889.

After practicing three years in Utica, Dr. Brown removed to Greenville, Mississippi, which being a larger town, would afford him greater opportunities in both a business and professional way, and his foresight gained for him the opportunity to increase his practice to such a degree as to entitle him to a place among the most eminent and ablest physicians of the South and at the same

time to acquire by judicious investment a fortune which has won for him the distinction of being known as the "wealthiest Negro in the State of Mississippi," and he is probably the wealthiest medical practitioner in the race.

HIS PROPERTY.

His property consists of an addition to the city of Greenville, Miss., two large farms in Washington County, Miss., and an independent fortune in the State of Oklahoma, consisting of farms and valuable oil lands, the town site known as Daisy, Oklahoma, named in honor of his only daughter, and city property in Musko-



"THE BROWN BUILDING," MUSKOGEE, OKLA.

gee, Oklahoma, where he has erected the "Brown Building." This building is a three-story structure, built of brick and stone, containing twenty rooms on each of the upper floors and two of the largest store rooms in the city on the ground floor. It is at once one of the attractions of visitors, and one of the objects of pride of the race in that hustling, progressive Southwestern metropolis.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF HIS PROPERTY.**(a)****BROWN'S ADDITION TO THE CITY OF GREENVILLE, Miss.**

A splendid example of the great magnitude of the business projects of Dr. Brown may be gained from Brown's Addition to the City of Greenville, Miss. Some time ago Dr. Brown purchased one hundred and ten acres of land in the suburbs of Greenville as the foundation of a great scheme for the development of the race. Ordinarily this great subdivision would simply have been divided into lots and sold for speculation only, but the purpose of the wise promoter is something even greater than speculation and merely turning the dollars into his coffers, for this purchase had in contemplation one of the greatest schemes of beneficence in the history of the race in this Southland.

(b)**THE NEGRO MANUFACTURING COMMODITY AND SUPPLY COMPANY.****CAPITAL STOCK \$250,000, DIVIDED INTO 250,000****SHARES OF \$1.00 EACH.**

The primary object in opening up to settlement Brown's Addition to the City of Greenville was and is to obtain the money with which to put in operation the Negro Manufacturing Commodity and Supply Company. This company has a capital stock of \$250,000, and will manufacture socks and stockings as its first product. One woman will operate six, twelve and fifteen machines, each of which will produce from four and one-half dozen to six dozen pairs of hosiery daily. As soon as the necessary amount of capital is forthcoming from the sale of lots in this Brown's Addition, it is the purpose of the company to erect a fireproof reinforced concrete factory building, 50x100 feet, and install the latest Mayo automatic knitting machines in sufficient numbers to equip the first unit and make an auspicious and effective beginning in the business.

(c)**THE SALE OF LOTS.**

Several hundred lots are now on sale, the proceeds of which will be devoted exclusively to the fostering of this great Negro enterprise, which will be the only manufacturing plant of its kind in the South, if not in the world. In purchasing a lot in this addition the fortunate buyer will not only make a timely contribution to one of the worthiest enterprises ever conceived by a member of the

race, but he will make one of the luckiest investments of his life. The present cost of a lot is a mere bagatelle of what it will be worth in a short time, even without the factory; but when the contemplated factory will have been erected and in operation, these same lots will have increased in value many per cent. Now is the time for any far-sighted man, who desires to invest, to get busy, for the greatest fortunes of the times are largely the result of getting in on the ground floor in the purchase of land. Many an old abandoned lot has subsequently become a veritable gold mine of profit to its indifferent owner. There is nothing that has such a magical effect on the value of land as the proximity of manufacturing plants. It is confidently believed that the lots in this addition will even double and treble in value in a reasonable length of time after this factory will have been in operation. It will be as profitable as well as a philanthropic act for every man to take a personal interest in promoting this great manufacturing enterprise of the race. Get in direct communication with Dr. Brown and investigate one of the greatest enterprises that has ever been conceived for the benefit of the Negro race.

THE NEGRO SHOULD GO INTO THE FACTORY.

While agriculture is the fundamental occupation of the world and is the final foundation of all wealth and prosperity, yet the most prosperous people are not necessarily farmers, for the domain of commerce presents to the race a fruitful source of opportunity. The vast fortunes that have been piled up in this country have had their origin in the factory and in the marts of trade. The manufacturers draw tribute from every person for whom anything whatsoever is to be made, and thus cater to manifold necessities. The Negroes of the Southland are the bone and sinew of the farming industry of the South, and without their services the Southland would be in a deplorable condition. The Negro has been the farming drudge and serf for centuries, but he can be taught to become as proficient a worker in the factory as he is on the farm. Heretofore his opportunities have been restricted largely to agriculture because the industrial conditions in the factories were hostile to his employment. In the promotion of enterprises of the character of the Negro Manufacturing Commodity and Supply Company, the members of the race will be widening their sphere of industrial activity and preparing opportunities of employment for thousands of worthy and capable young men and young women of the race, who are now graduating from our best institutions of learning and finding nothing to do along the line of remunerative employment.

The first products of this manufactory will be stockings and socks, and it is confidently believed by its promoters that with an auspicious beginning of the factory and its products on the market, they will be able to employ from two to three thousand men and women in the course of twenty-four months. It is their purpose to put a thousand drummers in the field just as soon as cases containing samples of the company's goods can be provided for each. If this great undertaking is to be realized in the near future, the members of the race must not sleep on their opportunities to make the project a reality. Every lot that is purchased in Brown's Addition will be a step in the direction of hope, prosperity and happiness for the race. Grasp the opportunity now; the ground floor pays best.

DR. BROWN AN HONEST AND RELIABLE MAN.

If the final success of an enterprise is to be predicted, it is only necessary to know who its promoters are. Some men are monumental failures in everything that they undertake, while other men are always successful. Such is the case with Dr. Brown, the President of this manufacturing enterprise, for he has never been connected with a failure. He is a man of sound business judgment and has prospered wonderfully in the accumulation of the goods of the world. He comes before the race with the prestige of success in everything with which he has ever been identified. He is not a pauper, seeking to gain wealth and honor at somebody else's loss, but he is a man that is in independent circumstances, and is considered by many people to be the wealthiest colored man in the State of Mississippi. There can be but little doubt of the assertion that the doctor already has enough of this world's goods to enable him to live the remainder of his life without taking any part in any business enterprise of any character, but he is actuated by philanthropic motives for the race. He sees in this enterprise a great opportunity to advance the material welfare of the race, and he is determined to make the most of it. The doctor is a very determined man when he makes up his mind, and it is quite certain that he will exhaust every reasonable resource to see the fruition of his plans. The financial resources of the doctor are sufficient to put the enterprise in operation at once, but in such a business there should be a community of interests instead of one predominant interest. The enterprise must be a monument to the co-operative business spirit of the race, and to the extent that the intelligent and self-respecting members of the race become interested in the enterprise will its ultimate success be guaranteed. "In union there is strength." Here is the opportunity for colored men to invest their earnings so as to bring them large returns and at the same time provide employment for thousands of men and women of the race.

HIS PERSONALITY.

Dr. Brown is a very pleasant gentleman to meet; he is one of the most interesting conversationalists that one may have the pleasure of meeting, and is full of wit, common sense and philosophy. He is a man of ripe experience, and has profited therefrom as few men have. He is versed both in the knowledge of books and the knowledge of men, and each of these powers has the better qualified him for life. He is a master of English, and never lacks the word to express his progressive thoughts. If he were to devote any considerable part of his time to the production of literature, he would probably make a very valuable contribution thereto. He is a scholar and a practical man. He does not dream, nor is he wild and visionary, for he has achieved such a success in life as only the most wide-awake, progressive and energetic man could achieve in the course of an ordinary lifetime. He is a man of prepossessing appearance, and the magnitude of his physical self is thoroughly indicative of his powerful mind. He is a man of giant physique and giant brain, and by the wise cultivation and use of both his physical and intellectual powers has he been able to mount the ladder to success, wealth and fame.



Rev. C. P. Jones, Jackson, Miss.

PASTOR OF CHRIST'S TEMPLE.



HE twentieth century is not only an era of reform in the governmental institutions of the world, but in the religious institutions as well. Reform along all lines seems to be in the air, and determined and consecrated men are blazing out from the beaten and dusty paths of decades and centuries and embracing new ideas and new beliefs, according to the truths that are revealed to them. The Negro race, if it be a race of original thinkers and investigators, must have its reformers along all lines, religious as well as political. The leaders of the race should not always be satisfied merely to join in the chorus of life, but they must be men that are capable of thinking for themselves and acting for themselves, according to the dictates of their own conscience. Independence in thought is the basis of all true freedom, and that man that acts in accordance with his revealed ideas of right is the man that is truly free.

AN INDEPENDENT THINKER.

Rev. C. P. Jones, the consecrated gospel minister whose life story forms the burden of this brief narrative, is one of the great independent, religious thinkers of the world. He has dared to blaze out from hide-bound traditions and interpretations of the Bible and to give Holy Writ a meaning that had never been generally given to it before.

HIS BIRTHPLACE AND EDUCATION.

Rev. C. P. Jones is a native of Georgia, and was born near Rome, Floyd County, December 9, 1865. His early educational opportunities were poor, but in the year of 1888 he entered the Arkansas Baptist College, Little Rock, and completed one or more of the courses in that well-known institution of learning. It may not be his honor to hold a diploma of graduation from any of the great educational institutions of the land, but he is unquestionably one of the best educated men in America.

HIS RELIGIOUS BELIEFS.

The writer does not feel that he is competent to give a clear statement as to the religious beliefs of this great preacher and leader, but he believes that he can give some faint exposition of the



REV. C. P. JONES

same for the benefit of the readers of this book. Rev. C. P. Jones very strictly construes the Bible, and believes every word in it. He believes in the direct answer to prayer and in the possibility of living a perfect life, even on this terrestrial ball. That is the main difference between him and others outside of his denomination. He has made enough progress along the road to heaven to know that he can live and does live a sanctified life, and he believes that others can do the same if they but really consecrate themselves to the Master. He believes with unfaltering trust in the truths of the Bible and that on this earth a person can be free from actual sin if he will live right on the Bible. Now, as to the ability of a person to consecrate himself to that extent, there is great doubt. It is more than probable that Reverend Jones has made greater progress spiritually than the generality of people, and not that others can not do the same if they truly surrender themselves, mind, soul and body.

HAS GOTTEN ALL BY PRAYER.

The worthy, consecrated subject believes in prayer and its immediate answer, and for whatever he desires in this life he goes to God in prayer. He used to be worried about the church music and the indifference of his church and Sunday School musicians. He went to the Master and asked Him to confer upon him the gift of song, and it was done. He is now a great and capable song writer, composer and player, and he got his talent from above through the instrumentality of prayer.

A GIFTED PREACHER.

The subject is one of the greatest preachers of the present day, and all that are so fortunate as to hear his wonderful preaching discourses will readily admit this fact, even if they are not in sympathy with his beliefs. He has great spiritual power, and is one of the most effective speakers of any country and any age. He knows the Bible from the beginning to the end, and makes its truths the real guide and inspiration of his life. He has an enormous following of some of the best people in the South. For his remarkable preaching ability fully to be realized it is necessary to hear him preach, for it is better heard than told.

A CLEAN MAN.

The subject is one man in the pulpit concerning whom slander's tongue is paralyzed with silence. He is perfectly clean in every essential of life, and comes as near perfection as mortals usually

come. He is also a practical man, and not a wild-eyed dreamer. He is a business man that knows how to look after the interests of his people. He is far from being a mere religious zealot, shut up in a cloister, but he is a perfectly rational and sane and practical man in every respect.

AN ABLE MAN.

The subject is an able man from whatever standpoint he may be viewed. He is an able orator, a great preacher, a splendid educator, an inspired musician, a skillful financier and a first-class all-round man. He treated the writer with marked courtesy while the writer was in the city of Jackson, Miss., and among the pleasant recollections of his "Swing Around the South," none was more pleasant than the writer's conference with Rev. C. P. Jones, the able leader and worthy spiritual father of Jackson, Miss.



Rev. W. A. Dinkins, A.B., D.D., Dublin, Georgia.



ONVERTED at the age of seven, licensed to preach the gospel at the age of fifteen, admitted to the traveling connection at the age of seventeen, a presiding elder at the early age of nineteen—these are but a few of the golden links in the remarkable life chain of the subject of this sketch, Rev. W. A. Dinkins, of Dublin, Georgia, who was born near Macon, Georgia, September 15, 1867. His father for forty years was a minister in the C. M. E. Church, and was one of the pioneers that blazed out the path and made it clear for the feet of the reverend sons that follow so faithfully and zealously therein.

HIS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LIFE.

The subject of this sketch first attended the village school at Fort Valley, Ga., and subsequently a school at Perry, Ga., which was taught by Dr. Duffy, a white friend of the race and a teacher in those early days. His experience in the two schools constituted the bulk of his elementary education up to that time. Rev. Dinkins was transferred by Bishop L. H. Holsey to the State of South Carolina at the early age of nineteen years, and was elevated to the presiding eldership of the Charleston District, where he labored for one year, after which time he was transferred to the pastorate of Holsey's Temple, Augusta, Georgia, where he remained for five years.

A GRADUATE OF PAINE COLLEGE.

In connection with his higher educational training, Dr. Dinkins feels deeply grateful to his dear friend and spiritual head, Bishop L. H. Holsey, who in the year of 1887 transferred him from a presiding eldership in the Palmetto State to a pastorate in the city of Augusta, Georgia, put him in touch with the educational life at Paine College, gave him the advantage of a classical education, and enabled him to receive his diploma from this grand old educational institution of the church. Thus for five years Rev. Dinkins filled the dual relationship of pastor of Holsey's Temple and student of Paine College. He received his diploma of graduation from Paine College with the title of Bachelor of Arts in 1893.

AN ACCOMPLISHED MUSICIAN.

While a student at Paine College he completed a four-year course in instrumental music and received a certificate of proficiency for the same. He is an able musician, and ranks with the very best in the ranks of his denomination. On the occasion of the gradua-



REV. W. A. DINKINS, A. B., D. D

tion of his class he played all the music, and for six years he was the official organist of the Georgia State Conference.

A GREAT WORK IN SAVANNAH.

In the year of 1897 he succeeded Dr. I. S. Person as pastor of St. Paul Church, Savannah, Ga., and accomplished there one of the greatest results of his eventful life. In the memorable revival which he carried on in that city over five hundred souls were gathered into the fold of the Master. Also, in that city he proved himself an able financier by raising the sum of \$2,175 in a single year. From the year of 1898 until 1902 he was Presiding Elder over various districts in the State of Georgia. While acting as pastor of the church at Fort Valley, Ga., in the year 1902, he added 375 members to the church.

THE FOUNDER OF HARRIET HOLSEY NORMAL AND INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL.

One of the greatest works in the life of Dr. Dinkins was the founding of the Dublin Normal and Industrial School in 1905. It is now known as the Harriet Holsey Normal and Industrial School, in honored remembrance of the sainted wife of his best friend, Bishop L. H. Holsey. The school is a fine two-story, eight-room building, and has in connection with the building about thirty acres of land, the whole educational plant being valued at \$15,000.

A LIFE OF GREAT SERVICE.

It has been the fortune of very few men of the race to have led a life of greater service and greater usefulness to his people than has Dr. Dinkins. For fifteen years he taught in the schools of the State of Georgia, and he has the honor of being one of the few colored teachers in the State of Georgia that holds a State license. For fifteen years he has been editor of the Christian Herald of Dublin, the official organ of the denomination in the State, and a paper of wide influence and extensive circulation. Twice was he honored with election to the general conferences of his church. For six years he was President of the Epworth League of the State of Georgia. During his long and useful career as a minister he has added to the church seven thousand members, built and improved forty-seven churches and founded one school. He is Secretary of the Farmers' Home Company of Augusta, Ga. This company has in its charge over six thousand acres of land, and has for its object the establishment of the first Congressional Industrial School



REV. W A DINKINS AND CHURCH

in the State of Georgia. He is a Master Mason and also a member of the Odd Fellows and the Knights of Pythias.

A FAMILY OF PREACHERS.

There is something remarkable about the original Dinkins family. The father himself was one of the pioneer ministers of the C. M. E. Church, and each of the six sons is a preacher, five of the sons being Methodist and one a Baptist minister.

THE RECIPIENT OF A GREAT HONOR.

Dr. Dinkins has been the recipient of honors. On account of his great ability and scholarly attainments, Morris Brown College of Atlanta, Ga., conferred upon him the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity. This honor can be the more appreciated when it is remembered that the college in question is one of the colleges of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, and not one of his own connection.

HIS ENERGETIC AND DEVOTED WIFE.

In the year of 1885 the subject of this sketch was fortunate in gaining the heart and hand of Miss Mamie Collins of Perry, Ga. She was a student of Atlanta University, and has been a teacher for the greater part of her life. If there ever was a man blessed with a good wife Dr. Dinkins considers himself to be that man. His loving wife has helped to make him what he is, and he cheerfully gives all the credit to his wife for his success. Dr. Dinkins believes that all men should appreciate, respect, care for and love their wives, and be perfectly willing to carry out in good faith the sacred promises that were made at the altar, both in the presence of man and of God. He has correct ideas of moral principles and is uncompromisingly opposed to what is wrong, both in precept and example. He does not believe that the race can ever reach its highest plane of development until the men of the race respect, love and honor their faithful and loving companions. Mrs. Dinkins is still working hard in the cause of education, and is the mainstay of the Harriet Holsey Normal and Industrial School.

THEIR TALENTED DAUGHTER.

Their daughter, Miss Mamie F. Dinkins, is a graduate of Haven Home Institute, Savannah, Ga. She is a talented musician, and studied music in the city of Savannah and at the Boston Conservatory of Music, Boston, Mass. She was in charge of the music at Harriet Holsey Normal and Industrial School, but recently she was

elected as teacher and music director in the city schools of Augusta, Ga., a position of honor and responsibility.

AN ESTIMATE.

Dr. Dinkins has been a hard worker all of his life, and he is none the less today. Viewed from any standard, Dr. Dinkins may be considered a successful man. He is a great preacher, a gifted lecturer, an experienced editor, a good pastor, an able musician, a noted financier, and an untiring worker in all the worthy channels of race activity. He has prospered from the material standpoint of the world, and has accumulated properties to the value of ten thousand dollars. Dr. Dinkins is a high class Christian gentleman and worthy of the highest honors of his branch of the Christian Church.



J. W. Sanford, Jr., Memphis, Tenn.

CONTRACTOR AND BUILDER.



IT IS a sweeping criticism from outside sources that the Negro race is lacking in enterprise and push. While there may be some degree of truth in this statement, yet there are in the ranks of the race countless examples of genuine, indomitable, American push which have been rewarded with the greatest degree of success. Push is the motive power that runs the wheels of success, and when combined with character and intelligence it is one of the superlative qualities of life. It is a source of pleasure to present to the reading public a member of the race that represents the highest type of push, energy and success. From his earliest boyhood days he exhibited a degree of enterprise and push that was remarkable and which unerringly pointed to his subsequent success and prosperity.

BORN IN TENNESSEE.

Mr. J. W. Sanford, the worthy subject of this sketch, is a native son of Tennessee, and was born in Covington, July 29, 1862. His parents and relatives are some of the leading citizens of Tipton County. His father, Mr. J. W. Sanford, Sr., owns 300 acres of land, and his brother, Mr. P. B. Sanford, has in his own right an acreage quite as great.

HIS LITERARY TRAINING.

The subject first attended the common schools of Tipton County, and subsequently LeMoyne Normal Institute, Memphis, Tenn., where he completed his academic training. While in school he was the same energetic, breezy, pushing student that he is now a business man. With him study was a matter of business rather than sentiment. He has always been a practical man and not a dreamer, and his object in going to school was to get the strongest possible preparation for success in life.

ALWAYS LOVED HIS HATCHET.

The subject seems to have inherited a love for carpentry, for he has been engaged in it from the days of his boyhood. When a mere child around home he did all of the hammering, sawing and nailing that was necessary, and thus early gave evidence of talents of the highest order in the business that is now his life work. He has been actively engaged in the contracting business ever since he was sixteen years old. In his early career he built nearly every bridge and nearly every school house in his home county, and was



J. W. SANFORD, JR.

really the most active young carpenter that Tipton County ever had.

MOVED TO MEMPHIS IN 1890.

The subject moved to the city of Memphis in 1890, largely because of the greater opportunities for success in his business. He brought with him to that city that same marvelous push that has characterized him wherever he has labored, and his success in the city of Memphis has justified the wisdom of his course in locating in Memphis. He took a leading rank among the members of his craft from the very beginning, and has held the lead to this day. He has erected a greater number of buildings in the city of Memphis than any other contractor of his race, and there are few of the oldest contractors of the dominant race that have been so successful in this respect as he.

THE BUSIEST CONTRACTOR IN MEMPHIS.

It is no exaggeration to state that the subject is the busiest contractor of the race in the city of Memphis. He employs regularly several different building crews under expert foremen, and is thus able to execute at the same time several different contracts. His building operations are not confined to the city of Memphis, but they embrace the States of Tennessee, Arkansas and Mississippi. He is the leading contractor for many of the white architects of Memphis, and he has erected a great number of the most substantial buildings in Memphis. His resources for carrying out his contractual obligations are unlimited, and he is prepared to make a bid for the erection of anything that comes in the range of his knowledge.

A BIG PROPERTY OWNER.

Mr. J. W. Sanford, Jr., has made his success by his own efforts. He has literally hammered and cut his way to fame and fortune. A first-class carpenter should be known not only by his chips, as the old saying goes, but he should be known by his material success. The subject has ascended the ladder of success as rapidly as any man in the history of Memphis. Each year has witnessed a substantial increase in his holdings of realty, until now he is one of the largest property holders in the city of Memphis. He is the owner of thirty-three pieces of property in the city of Memphis, whose value is conservatively estimated at \$65,000. In addition to this realty he is a land nabob in his ownership of farm lands. In the neighborhood of Covington, Tenn., he owns 170 acres of farm land, his first piece of realty. At Jericho, Arkansas, he owns 120 acres of fertile farm land. At Terrell, Arkansas, he owns 540 acres of the best land, and on President's Island, Tennessee, he

owns 300 acres of valuable land. Thus it may be seen that the subject owns nearly 1,200 acres of the best farming land of the South. A man whose push and energy have enabled him to accumulate goods of this world to an amount exceeding \$100,000 has done much that should inspire the youth of the race, and is one of the best examples of race success.

HIS DEVOTED WIFE.

Very few members of the race have given a better account of themselves than the subject of this sketch, but he has had the inspiration and devotion of his estimable wife to assist him. In the year of 1888 it was the good fortune of the subject to win the heart and hand of Miss L. A. Burchett of Mason, Tenn., and lead her to the altar as his bride. She comes from one of the best families in Tipton County, and is a woman of culture and refinement. She was given good educational advantages by her parents, and completed her education at Fisk University, Nashville, Tenn. She is an ideal companion and mother, and has no higher aspiration in life than the welfare and happiness of her children and devoted husband.

THEIR CHILDREN.

The married life of the subject and his wife has been blessed with two children, Miss Marie A. Sanford and Master O. C. F. Sanford. They are two fortunate youths, for they have been given every advantage to prepare themselves for life. The daughter is a student of Oberlin College, and the son a member of Wilberforce University. They have many of the admirable qualities of their worthy parents, and with their splendid educational advantages it is not unreasonable to expect them to be the flower of the manhood and womanhood of the race.

HIS PERSONALITY.

The subject is innately one of the most pleasant and one of the most affable men of the race. If he had taken a post graduate course in a school of politeness he could not be naturally more polite than he is. Success and wealth have not affected him, and he is the same congenial, hearty, unaffected man that he ever was. He has a welcome hand, a cheerful smile and a cordial greeting for every one, and this personal charm of character has been a valuable asset to his success. He is one of the best business men of the race, and his counsel and experience are invaluable in business matters. He has a host of friends that rejoice because of his success, for they know him to be one of the most energetic and one of the most deserving of men.

W. A. Attaway, M.D., Greenville, Miss.

PRESIDENT OF DELTA PENNY SAVINGS BANK AND PRESIDENT OF
MISSISSIPPI BENEFICIAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY.



IN THESE modern days of business rivalry, commercial activity and fierce competition for the mastery, a great deal is being proclaimed to the world about the wizards of commerce and the Napoleons of finance, that are so numerous in the ranks of the dominant race, but seldom has anything been heralded to the world concerning the financial genius and commercial achievements of the business and financial marvels that are in the ranks of the Negro race. It can not be confidently asserted that any race has a mortgage on intelligence or a monopoly of either vice or virtue. All the races of mankind have a common inheritance in the bountiful storehouse of genius, whether this legacy be the mastery of finance or the understanding of the economic problems that govern the progress of the world's civilization.

Great as are the wonderful achievements of the Anglo-Saxon race in the domain of finance, yet when the commercial opportunities of the white and black races are considered, the record of the leading financiers of the Negro race is indeed highly creditable, and when set over in comparison with that of the able financiers of the white race, it suffers no disparagement.

THE FINANCIAL MARVEL OF MISSISSIPPI.

The State of Mississippi stands pre-eminent in the number and character of able financiers in the ranks of the Negro race. In no other State of the Federal Union has the race made such marvelous progress along material lines. That State stands unapproachable in the business and financial world of the race. Already has the race organized and put in operation in that State at least a dozen banks, and with each passing year other banks are being established to keep step to the music of progress. Right in the center of the business and financial stage, guiding and directing the financial policies of the race, is that prince of business men and that financial marvel, Dr. W. A. Attaway, whose successful achievements in the domain of finance entitle him to unapproachable leadership in the commercial world of the race.

A YOUNG MAN IN THE PRIME OF LIFE.

Dr. Attaway has been a factor in the business and financial life of the State of Mississippi for several years, yet he is still a young

man, in the very prime of life. It is an old maxim that a man hardly thinks an original thought before he has attained to the age of thirty-five years. If the subject of this sketch succeeded in



DR. W. A. ATTAWAY

accomplishing so many stupendous things before he had attained to that historic age, what wonders may he not hope to accomplish long ere he will have attained to the age of forty. At the very age

when other men have begun to be able to think, this able doctor and business man has long since made his mark in the business world. He has been tried in the crucible of business responsibility, and he has demonstrated to the world that he is pure gold. His success as a business promoter in the State of Mississippi nearly staggers belief, and no other member of the race has been endowed with the same degree of confidence to bring to a successful conclusion such gigantic undertakings.

"ONE MAN POWER" THE GUIDING PRINCIPLE OF SUCCESS.

It has been the experience of most of the successful business institutions of the world that they have been a monument to the brain, brawn and even blood of some one man, who either voluntarily or involuntarily held the scepter of power as in the hollow of his hand. Dr. Attaway has every requisite for intelligent and successful leadership, and the business ventures with which he is connected are easily the most successful in the State of Mississippi. He does not preach the doctrine of "one man power," but he is conversant with the fact that the gigantic business institutions whose success has been most pronounced in the business life of the nation were essentially a one-man affair, and that their success was gained at the expense of mainly one man's strenuous efforts, and often at the sacrifice of some one man's life.

THE NEGRO WIZARD OF INSURANCE.

The subject of this sketch is the honored President of the Mississippi Beneficial Life Insurance Company, a company that is chartered under the laws of Mississippi, and is now operating in all sections of the State. The insurance company in question is the result of the brain, finance and confidence of Dr. W. A. Attaway, who was willing to blaze out the path to success in this novel business venture and, if necessary, sacrifice himself trying to promote the business welfare of the race. The Mississippi Beneficial Life Insurance Company is the only institution of its kind in the civilized world, for it is the only insurance company operated by the Negro race that is now writing all kinds of old line life insurance policies. The President of this company has studied the life insurance business as has no other man in the ranks of the race, and he is acquainted with that business from every possible angle. He is a veritable wizard in the Negro insurance world, and is destined to share with those mighty pioneers that preceded him the greatest glory that can be bestowed upon him by a grateful people.

QUIT A PRACTICE OF \$10,000 A YEAR.

That the subject has great faith in the possibilities of the insurance business with his people is demonstrated by the fact that he has voluntarily abandoned the most lucrative practice in the State of Mississippi in order to devote his whole time to the development of the insurance business. It is a matter of common knowledge that the practice of Dr. Attaway, while he was regularly engaged, netted him an average of \$10,000 per annum. A man must have perceived wonderful possibilities outside of a profession which paid him an average of \$10,000 per annum.

GREAT IN EVERY DEPARTMENT OF EXCELLENCE.

Dr. Attaway is a great man in every department of human excellence. He is one of the greatest physicians of the Southland; he is a great business promoter and business man; he is the premier insurance magnate of the century; he is great in his conceptions for the welfare of the race. He has made good as have few men in the ranks of the Negro race, and he has resolved to continue until he will have realized the one consuming ambition of his life.

HIS PERSONALITY.

The subject of this sketch is a business man of the first magnitude, and his mere word stands for as much as that of any other man in the State of Mississippi. He is the central figure in the most colossal combination of capital that has ever been gotten together in the State, and this combination of capital is but a faint testimonial of the appreciation in which his remarkable business talents are held by his admirers and friends. Dr. Attaway is a sane business man, or he never would have accumulated in his own right such a competency for life. He has already accumulated a considerable quantity of the goods of this world, and is prepared for the proverbial rainy day. But he is not selfish in his ambition to gain wealth, for he is anxious for the whole race to be beneficiaries of the blessings which universal insurance will bring, not only to the Negro race, but to mankind in general. The Mississippi Beneficial Life Insurance Company sends its greetings to the readers of this volume, and its honored President and General Manager, Dr. W. A. Attaway, hopes to be able to serve the wants of his people just as soon as the superior merits of his company are generally known.

Prof. J. H. Blount, Forrest City, Ark.

EDUCATOR AND PLANTER—SECRETARY-TREASURER MASONIC
BENEFIT ASSOCIATION.



AMONG the many able, useful and serviceable men in the ranks of the race that have contributed most to its development, growth and prosperity along educational, moral and material lines in the State of Arkansas there are indeed few to whom greater credit should be given than to Prof. J. H. Blount, of Forrest City, Ark. Having obeyed the injunction



PROF. J. H. BLOUNT

of the lamented Horace Greeley to "go West and grow up with the country," he quit his native State of Georgia and went to the State of Arkansas to seek fame and fortune. Though a mere youth when he first touched the soil of the State of Arkansas, he had all of the courage, hardihood and determination of the adventurous pioneer

in a virgin country, and he has not only grown up with the country in both letter and spirit, but he has prospered and made an honorable name for himself and his posterity.

HIS NATIVITY AND PARENTS.

The subject of this sketch is a native of the State of Georgia, and was born at Clinton, near Macon, September 17, 1860. His father, who is still living, was one of the finest general mechanics of his time. Madison Blount, his father, owns a farm of 400 acres in the State of Georgia, and is respected far and near as one of the most representative citizens of the race.

HIS EDUCATION.

Prof. Blount is a man of liberal educational attainments, and for many years he has been recognized as one of the leading educators of the State of Arkansas. His elementary education was received in the common schools of the State of Georgia, but his higher educational training was received at Walden University, in whose classic walls he was a student for seven years. He also took courses of instruction in summer at Chicago University.

HIS CAREER AS A SCHOOLMASTER.

Early in life Prof. Blount took up the serious responsibilities of a schoolmaster. His first feeble efforts as an educator in embryo need not be elaborated upon at this time. Suffice it to state that his regular and creditable experience as a teacher began in the year of 1884, while he was a student of Walden University. For over a quarter of a century he has been connected with the public schools of the State of Arkansas in a teaching capacity, and for twenty-two years he was regularly engaged as principal of the public schools at Forrest City, Hot Springs and Texarkana.

ONE OF THE LEADING INSTITUTE AND NORMAL CONDUCTORS.

That Prof. Blount has always stood high in the estimation of the educational powers of the State of Arkansas is evidenced by the many official honors that have been conferred upon him by them. In the years when the Legislature of the State used to be so generous with its appropriations for summer normal school purposes and for teachers' institutes, Prof. Blount was one of the leading educators in charge of those summer normal schools and institutes. So highly were his professional services appreciated in St. Francis County,

his home county, that he was the recognized examiner of the colored teachers of that county for ten years.

TEACHING A LABOR OF LOVE.

It is generally known throughout the State of Arkansas that Prof. Blount is one of the wealthiest teachers in the State, and the result is that there is considerable speculation among many people as to why he persists in continuing to labor in the school room when there are for him far greater financial rewards outside of the school room. If he were to spend his entire time developing and managing his vast landed interests, it is more than probable that he would realize in the course of a year his school room salary ten or twenty-fold. But Prof. Blount is actuated by a higher motive than that of mere dollars and cents in continuing to serve the welfare of his people in the school room. With him the profession of teaching is a labor of love. The almighty dollar influences him not, for in continuing to teach school he is really making a sacrifice instead of a gain of dollars; but it is his love for the work and his earnest desire to do good for the race that cause him to continue to pull in pedagogical harness. Prof. Blount is not of a grasping, avaricious nature, nor does he consider the dollar as the sum total of human existence. He realizes that there is a serious responsibility devolving upon the educated colored man of the South, and that it is the bounden duty of the educated colored man to do his part in the great work of uplifting his benighted people. Personally he is in practically independent circumstances, but it has ever been his earnest desire to lift others up with him while he was climbing. He considers the educational advantages that he has received as a dispensation from Providence to enable him to help his struggling and benighted people, and for this reason he has found the attraction of service and hard work in the school room to be greater than any other attraction in life.

HIS POLITICAL EXPERIENCE.

In the many experiences of his long and eventful career it has fallen to his lot to take a prominent part in politics. While he is not such an active partisan that he would be willing to abandon his business for political activity, yet he believes that every intelligent and thoughtful citizen should exercise every vested right under the constitution of the land. At one time he was prominent in political affairs in his State, and rendered the cause that he espoused his best and most effective efforts. For eight years he was honored with the chairmanship of the Republican County Committee, and for

ten years he was the honored Secretary of the same committee. He was alternate delegate to the National Republican Convention that nominated Roosevelt and Fairbanks for the presidency and vice-presidency of the United States.

A THIRTY-THIRD DEGREE MASON.

For many years the subject of this sketch has enjoyed the distinction of being one of the highest Masons in the State of Arkansas. That he has zealously studied and been loyal to the cause of Masonry is evidenced by the fact that he has climbed the Masonic ladder until he has, figuratively speaking, reached the thirty-third round. At present he is one of the only two thirty-third degree Masons in the State of Arkansas.

SECRETARY-TREASURER OF THE MASONIC BENEFIT ASSOCIATION.

The versatile subject of this sketch has served in nearly every minor official capacity in the ranks of the Masonic fraternity, and for four years he served as Deputy Grand Master of the State. At present he is filling the responsible office of Secretary-Treasurer of the Masonic Benefit Association of his State. In the State of Arkansas there are about five thousand Masons, and in the ranks of that fraternity are found many of the leading men of the State. The order pays an endowment of \$200. As financial official of this endowment fund Prof. Blount collected and disbursed for the fiscal year of 1910, \$26,973.05.

HIS ACCOMPLISHED AND DEVOTED WIFE.

The 22d day of August, 1906, will ever be memorable in the life of Prof. J. H. Blount, for on that day benign Providence enabled him to make one of the master strokes of his life. Better than his thirty-third degree Masonry, and far better than his broad and fertile acres of land was the blessing that he received when he led to the altar Miss Almira J. Payne of Holly Springs, Miss. She was the talented daughter of Rev. A. D. Payne and wife, of Holly Springs, Miss. Her lamented father was one of the ministers of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Mississippi. Mrs. Almira J. Blount is a graduate of the academic and nurse training departments of Rust University, Holly Springs, Miss., and she had the honor of teaching in the classic walls of her alma mater for two years. That she has been a source of encouragement and blessing to her worthy husband is evidenced by the fact that their union has already been blessed with two boys, Josiah Homer Blount and Scott Bond Blount. Mrs. Blount is a woman of culture and refinement, and is an ideal companion for her able and popular husband.



MRS. J. H. BLOUNT

THEIR SPLENDID HOME.

Situated in the suburbs of Forrest City is the magnificent and pretentious-looking home of Prof. and Mrs. J. H. Blount. It is a commodious two-story frame residence, built close to the right of way of the Rock Island Railroad, and located on an elevation that is as commanding as it is beautiful. The home of Prof. Blount was erected at a total cost of \$5,000, and it is easily the most sub-



RESIDENCE OF J. H. BLOUNT

stantial and the most palatial residence in that part of St. Francis County. The mighty baronial castles of mediaeval times were not more magnificently located for a commanding view of the country for miles around. His residence is the cynosure of all eyes, and is a source of wonder and admiration to all classes, whites and blacks alike, the country around.

THE OWNER OF NEARLY A SECTION OF LAND.

Prof. Blount is one of the prominent land holders of St. Francis County, and owns in his right nearly a section of land. Much of this land is of great value, and the whole could not be purchased for less than \$45,000, if at all. In addition to his vast acres of land, he has improved property in Forrest City and Texarkana, Ark. If he had aspired to be rich instead of useful, he might have

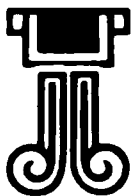
easily been long ere this time the wealthiest colored man in the eastern part of Arkansas. But he has preferred to circumscribe his activities largely to the school room and do his best to promote race advancement, rather than individual financial success.

LIBERAL PROVISION FOR HIS CHILDREN.

The real character of Prof. Blount is seen in the admirable provision that he has made for the welfare of his children. He has departed from the beaten paths that have been so long trodden by the fathers of the race, and has resolved to put the future welfare of his children beyond any possibility of want and protection. For their special benefit he has invested heavily in life insurance policies. He has already invested in \$10,000 worth of insurance, and it is his intention shortly to invest in as much more for the same purpose. Verily, it pays to have a far-sighted and sagacious father, for in this material age there is no harm in being born with a set of silver spoons in one's mouth.

ONE OF THE MOST POPULAR MEN IN ARKANSAS.

There is not a man in the State of Arkansas that is more widely and more favorably known than Prof. J. H. Blount of Forrest City. He is a popular fraternity man, and is connected more or less with all of the most prominent fraternal organizations of his State. He is actively engaged in church and Sunday School work. He is one of the veteran educators of his State, and seems to have dedicated the best and most conscientious energies of his life to the profession of teaching. He is an affable, congenial and unassuming man, and enjoys universal appreciation and confidence. He is one of the most versatile men in the State, and he has served the interests of the race as have few other men. Success has crowned his efforts in the past and the future will but the more emphatically bestow upon him the rewards and glories which an honorable, upright and useful life will always merit.



D. B. Miller, M.D., Memphis, Tenn.



IN ALL the ages of Christian civilization, wisdom has been associated with the Orient. In biblical days the wise men are said to have come from the East to Jerusalem to inquire concerning the new-born king of the Jews, for they had beheld his star in the East and they had come to worship him. In this brief life story there is a reversal of all historic precedent concerning the East as the inspiration and source of all wisdom, for it is now the honor of the great North to present one of its native sons to shine in that illustrious galaxy. For the purposes of this narrative, this worthy representative of the North is none other than that prince of popular favor and that smiling representative of sunshine, Dr. Dublin B. Miller.

ONLY PENNSYLVANIA PRODUCES HIS LIKE.

The affable and kindly subject of this sketch is a native of the great State of Pennsylvania, and smiled his first infant smile in Pittsburg, Allegheny County, in the year of umphty imphty. He is a typical son of the North, for he has brought to this benighted Southern region much of that hustling, energetic, never-say-die spirit that is characteristic of the people of the "Keystone State."

ONE OF THE SCHOLARS OF THE RACE.

The worthy physician whose life story is here told is one of the shining stars in the educational firmament of the race. He has enjoyed every educational advantage and is really one of the best educated men of the race. He is an alumnus of Lincoln University, from which institution of learning he also received his degree of Master of Arts.

A GRADUATE IN THEOLOGY.

Not only is the worthy doctor a graduate of the classical department of Lincoln University, but he is also an alumnus of the theological department of that same institution. He received his diploma of graduation in the year of 1895. He is thus qualified to look after both the intellectual and the spiritual side of unregenerate man.

WORE THE PRINCE ALBERT OF THE PEDAGOGUE.

Among the many responsibilities in the life of the doctor that have enabled him to serve well the cause of humanity, he takes

great pleasure from the fact that he was a schoolmaster in the State of Virginia for several years. For four years he was Principal



DR. D. B. MILLER

of the public school at Martinville, Va., and his successful record in the teachers' profession thoroughly demonstrated the fact that he is a man that is as versatile in ability as he is useful in service.

A GRADUATE IN MEDICINE.

The subject is a doctor of the flesh as well as a doctor of the spirit, and thus in each capacity he can do his part in the great plan of elevating and uplifting the Negro race. He is not only a graduate of one of the leading colleges in the North, but he is a graduate of Meharry Medical College, Nashville, Tenn., and he bears from that well-known medical institution his diploma certifying to his ability to go out in life and relieve the ills and miseries of suffering humanity. He was well prepared to succeed in the practice of the medical profession, for his thorough educational training had prepared a solid foundation for the understanding of medical truths.

LOCATED IN MEMPHIS, TENN.

As soon as the doctor had graduated from Meharry Medical College, he instinctively came to Memphis to locate. He was not such a plutocrat when he first arrived in the city of Memphis as he is now, for he had to borrow the money with which to pay his board. Without tedious elaboration of details, it will suffice to state that the doctor made good from the first week of his locating in the Bluff City, and that his medical star has been in the ascendant ever since he first hung out his shingle in the northeastern part of Memphis.

HAS FLOURISHED IN MEMPHIS.

The doctor's success, professionally and financially, in the city of Memphis has been phenomenal, and it is doubtful if any other physician has ever risen more rapidly in the accumulation of the goods of this world. He never had the usual "starving time" of the average physician, but he at once jumped into popular favor. He is a first-class medical man from every standpoint, and his financial success is a monument to his unusual medical ability, as well as to his affability. In his short professional career in Memphis he has accumulated some very valuable property, and he is now rated a strong man in the community.

A POPULAR PHYSICIAN.

Dr. Miller has a blanket mortgage on popularity, for he is easily one of the most lovable and one of the most popular physicians in Memphis. Though a college graduate, he is a man that is simplicity personified. He is a favorite in all circles, and everybody is glad to meet him and be the recipient of his hearty handshake and cheerful greeting. He has a bright future in Memphis, and the day is not far distant when he will be among the first men of Memphis in point of material resources.

Mrs. Lillian L. Smith, Denver, Colorado.

PRESIDENT AND MISSIONARY OF THE WOMAN'S BAPTIST HOME AND
FOREIGN MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF COLORADO.

NO CAUSE involving the welfare and salvation of humanity can well succeed without the cheerful and consecrated efforts of woman. In all ages of the world women have worked, prayed and made every possible sacrifice for the cause of human progress and the evangelization of the world, and they are today more potential in the affairs of the world than ever before.



MRS. LILLIAN L. SMITH

Consecrated service is the noblest contribution that one can make to human society, and that man or that woman that dedicates self to the cause of the uplift and advancement of humanity has done all that it is possible for a human being to do. This is the brief life story of a consecrated woman, who has dedicated her life to the cause of humanity, instead of to her own personal welfare. She is a member of that valiant and invincible host of women that are

determined to do something for the expansion and upbuilding of God's kingdom on earth and for this reason she is a beacon light that is shedding its refulgent rays across the whole Christian world.

NATIVITY.

Mrs. Lillian L. Smith, the noble and self-sacrificing woman whose life story forms the burden of this narrative, is a native of the city of Memphis, Tennessee, and first saw the glories of this mundane existence October 8, 1874.

HER EDUCATION.

Her education was brought to an untimely end at the age of fourteen years on account of the ill health of her widowed mother, but she never became discouraged in her ambition to study and prepare for a serviceable and useful career. What she has lacked in the way of educational opportunities the heavenly Father has made up in an earnest desire on her part to serve the welfare of humanity, and thus the law of human compensation is in evidence in her case.

CONVERTED AT NINETEEN.

The religious life of the subject began with her conversion at the age of nineteen, at which time she was baptized into the Beale Street Baptist Church of Memphis, Tenn. Having married in the same year to James Edward Smith of Holly Springs, Miss., she, with her devoted husband, moved to Kansas and united with the Pilgrim Baptist Church, which was then under the pastorate of Rev. R. N. Countee, formerly of Memphis. While in her new Western home she soon became interested in home mission work, and was one of the first to assist in the organization and founding of the Old Folks and Orphans' Home for Colored People, which has grown into a substantial institution of benevolence for the race for which it was built.

IN THE SERVICE OF THE MASTER.

Some years ago the joyful intelligence was brought to her that she had been elected to the responsible position of State Missionary for the women of Colorado. She has served in that exalted capacity for four years, and has not only done a great work for the cause of religion, but she has contributed greatly to the social and economic uplift of her benighted people in the State of Colorado. Hers has been a life of serious responsibility, and only the Maker of us all knows what she has experienced in her efforts to bring the blessings of Christian light and comfort to the weak and lowly in the benighted mining regions of her State. She is away from the comforts of home a great deal of the time, roughing it over the

mountains and in the mining camps of her State, but she feels that she is doing the will of the Master, and she is happy to persevere in her responsible work until her mission will have been accomplished. To be a missionary in the mountain wilds of Colorado and a helpless, unprotected woman is not an insignificant responsibility, and it is only by the encouragement and guidance of the Master that she has been able to accomplish such a wonderful amount of good.

THE AUTHOR OF A BOOK OF POEMS.

Notwithstanding the fact that the worthy subject of this sketch makes no pretensions to being a woman of education, yet she has made a very valuable contribution to the literature of the race. Many a highly educated woman would consider it an honor to have accomplished along literary lines what the subject has already accomplished. She has written and put on the reading market a booklet entitled "Out of the Depths," which shows natural poetic talent of a high order. The language of the poems is surprisingly correct, and in every poetic essential the book is worthy of perusal. There is a breath of confidence and hope permeating her various selections that is really refreshing and uplifting, and anybody will be well repaid for giving her book a careful perusal.

AN EXTRACT FROM ONE OF HER LETTERS.

"You asked me to give you some special points of interest in my life. I don't know anything more than that my life has been a severe struggle with poverty and every contaminating element that tends to keep one down. Some people delight in calling themselves self-made when they have overcome some difficulty or achieved something worthy without the advantages of school and favorable environment, but I deem it an injustice to God as well as ungratefulness to make an assertion of this kind. If I am anything at all I owe it all to Him. So, instead of calling myself self-made I call myself 'God made.'" This extract from the letter of the subject of this sketch is the keynote to her character, and is the best proof that can be adduced to show that she is a deserving, useful, consecrated Christian woman.

J. H. Usher, Jericho, Ark.

PLANTER, MERCHANT AND POSTMASTER.



HAT there is a great future for the Negro race in this beautiful Southland, and that the race has its greatest opportunities for growth, development and the accumulation of wealth in the South can not be denied by those who are in position to know the actual facts as they exist in the South today. In traveling over the Southern section of the United States there is hardly a hamlet, village or town that does not have representatives of the Negro race in fair and often affluent circumstances. In spite of the many racial wars and rumors of wars that are supposed to take place in this Southland, it is the garden spot of hope for the Negro race, for it has made in that particular section a progress along material and other lines that staggers all belief.

It gives the writer no small degree of pleasure to present to the readers of this book the brief life story of a member of the race who has really done something worthy of recording. He has taken advantage of the opportunities as he has found them, and has built himself from the very ground up to a position of influence, power and honor among his fellowmen.

BORN IN GEORGIA.

Mr. J. H. Usher, the subject of this narrative, is a native of Georgia, the Empire State of the South, and he was born in the vicinity of Covington, June 21, 1864. Early in his youthful life his parents moved from the State of Georgia to the State of Mississippi, where he grew to man's estate.

LITERARY TRAINING.

The worthy subject was educated in the common schools of Corinth, Miss. In addition to his elementary training he has a special natural training that is not found in ordinary school books, for it is rather a dispensation from a source that is higher than books. He is not only trained in the knowledge of books, but he is trained in the experience of the world, and this dual education to a great extent accounts for his splendid success in the warfare of life.

WENT TO ARKANSAS IN 1886.

The subject came West in search of opportunity and fortune in the year of 1886, and located at Jericho, Ark. When he came



J. H. USHER

he was a poor, struggling man, whose greatest asset was his grim determination to work hard and gain a substantial foothold in life. He did not mind work, for he was after results. Coming as he had done from the poorer lands in the State of Mississippi to the rich alluvial deposits in the eastern part of Arkansas, the changed agricultural conditions were a revelation to him, and did wonders to inspire him with the determination to do his best to rise. He immediately took hold of the rich land, leased and cleared up thirty-three acres of land in two years' time and raised twenty-three bales of cotton thereon the second year. He was much encouraged by his auspicious beginning, and was inspired to work harder and harder to reach the goal.



I. H. Usher's Ginnery

BOUGHT HIS FIRST FARM IN 1892.

After the energetic subject had been leasing and working the fertile land around Jericho for a few years, he decided to buy his first farm of 160 acres in the year of 1887. As he has climbed higher and higher the ladder of success he has added to his original farm, until he is now the owner of four different farms, with a total of eight hundred (800) acres of land. This land is rich in farming possibilities, and will average in a good crop year a bale or more of cotton to the acre. In addition to the land that he owns

he cultivates other large tracts of land, making about 1,200 acres that he has in cultivation. He is the farming chief in his community, and there is no other member of the race to contest his supremacy along that line.

THE J. H. USHER GINNERY.

In connection with his large farming interests, the subject of this sketch operates a large ginnery, with four gin stands of the most effective and most modern character. This ginnery had an output of 2,000 bales of cotton for the year of 1910-11. It is valued at \$10,000.



J. H. Usher's Ginnery

THE J. H. USHER SAWMILL.

The subject owns and operates a large sawmill, capable of cutting an average of 20,000 feet of lumber daily. This sawmill is built along approved and modern lines, and was erected at a cost of \$3,500.

THE J. H. USHER GENERAL STORE.

Mr. Usher operates one of the largest mercantile establishments in East Arkansas. It is a general store, and supplies not only his tenants, but the general public as well. It is busy the year round,

and carries constantly a stock of goods that will invoice in the neighborhood of \$4,000.

FURNISHES NEARLY FORTY FAMILIES.

On the twelve hundred (1,200) acres of land that are cultivated by the subject, thirty-five families of share farmers work. In the year of 1910 the share of the subject from the yield of his lands both owned and otherwise was four hundred (400) bales of cotton.

POSTMASTER AT JERICHO, ARK.

Not only does Mr. Usher enjoy the respect, esteem and confidence of his fellow-citizens, but he enjoys the confidence of the government of the United States, which has entrusted to his care the distribution of the mail in his town. He has been honored with the position of Postmaster of Jericho for about seven years, and his administration of the affairs of his office has been highly acceptable, not only to the patrons of the office, but to the governmental powers that be.

HIS ENTERPRISING AND DEVOTED WIFE.

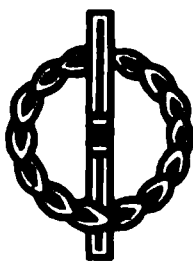
The great progress of the subject up the hill of life has been since the year of his marriage, for since that eventful and happy day, December 21, 1888, when he led Miss Jennie Long of Corinth, Mississippi, to the altar as his bride he has had not only the benefit of her personal encouragement, but her assistance as well. She was educated in the schools of Corinth, Miss., and taught in the schools of Mississippi and Arkansas for some time. She is a splendid woman, and to her quite as much credit is to be given for her husband's success as to himself.

THEIR THREE CHILDREN.

The personal welfare of every real man or woman depends upon the worthy lives of their children. The worthy parents whose children are referred to in this paragraph have made every necessary provision for their children, for they are being sent to school in order to be educated for worthy and useful lives. Atha Long Usher is a student of Rust University, Holly Springs, Miss. Murray Frederick Usher is also a student of Rust University, while Lillie Elizabeth Usher is a student of LeMoyne Normal Institute of Memphis, Tenn. All these children bid fair to live lives of promise if they but continue in the paths in which they have started and in which they are daily encouraged to go.

AN ESTIMATE.

Mr. Usher is not only one of the most progressive men of the race in the eastern part of the State of Arkansas, but he is easily one of the wealthiest. He has made his wealth from the shoulder, and he is in every respect the architect of his own monument of success. He is a great business man and a man of superb common sense. He has come to the front, as to the ownership of the goods of this world, as rapidly as any man has come in the history of the eastern part of his State, and it is a great compliment, both to the possibilities of his section and his ability to take advantage of them, that he has made this marvelous rise in the scale of business and financial success. He is a man that deserves everything that he has gained, either by the sweat of his own brow or the power of his intellect. He is highly esteemed and enjoys universal respect. While it is a mere matter of speculation as to the exact wealth of the subject, yet it can not be far out of the bounds of reason to rate him as being worth in the neighborhood of \$75,000 to \$80,000.



Pythian Temple Building, New Orleans, La.

THE EIGHTH WONDER.

THE Eighth Wonder of the world is not located in the Orient, in the Occident, nor at the North Pole, but right in the city of New Orleans, in the prosperous State of Louisiana. It is not a temple that is dedicated to the gods, but it is a mammoth, modern, up-to-date building, dedicated to the living and built by Negro brains and Negro capital. The name of this pretentious and magnificent structure is the Pythian Temple of New Orleans, La.



PYTHIAN TEMPLE, NEW ORLEANS, LA

THE PROPERTY OF THE KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS OF LOUISIANA.

This elegant and substantial structure, as its name indicates, is the property of the Knights of Pythias of the State of Louisiana, and was erected by this fraternity at a total cost of over \$200,000. It is the costliest building that was ever erected by the resources of the Negro race, and is an imperishable monument to the business enterprise and business judgment of the race. It was dedicated for

use August 18, 1909, on an occasion that will ever be memorable in the annals of Pythianism in the State of Louisiana, and if the fraternity had nothing else to commend it to popular favor, it would still deserve to stand in the van of the colored fraternal organizations of the State of Louisiana.

A MAMMOTH BUILDING.

This mammoth building is one of the most elegant and one of the most symmetrically constructed buildings, from an architectural point of view, that can be found in the entire South. It has forty-two office rooms, eight spacious society halls or auditoriums, and several splendid apartments for business quarters. It has two elevators, one for the use of passengers and the other for the use of freight. The building has no wood in its construction, and is absolutely fireproof. It is in every respect a modern building, and it is fitted up with the latest conveniences and appliances.

THE TEMPLE ROOF GARDEN.

On the top of this building there is a roof garden, where concerts, moving picture exhibitions and other creditable entertainments are given, and altogether the roof garden is as much of a necessity as it is a novelty for the proper kind of social pleasure. It was the privilege of the writer to be carried up to this roof garden to witness a moving picture exhibition, and he was charmed, not only with the merits of the exhibition itself, but with the class of patrons and the model character of their demeanor. There was an orchestra present that added its sweet strains to the pleasure of the occasion.

A FRATERNITY INNOVATION.

In the erection of this grand and imposing looking structure the Knights of Pythias of the State of Louisiana have inaugurated an innovation that will have a tendency to show them in a new light before the world. This progressive fraternity is putting more stress on business principles and business enterprises than in mysterious handshakes and occult symbols. The able and worthy leaders of this grand fraternity are to be congratulated because of their progressive ideas, and the manner in which they have raised the fraternity in the estimation of thinking men and women the country over.



DR. BOOKER T. WASHINGTON

MY VISIT TO TUSKEGEE.

So much has been published to the world about that great world-known educational institution at Tuskegee that it is not necessary for me to give any extended description of my trip to that institution,



PROF. EMMETT J. SCOTT

for I suppose that the experience of every other person who has been so fortunate as to visit that famous educational plant has been similar to mine.



1. Tatum Hall, Tuskegee Institute.
2. Carnegie Library, Tuskegee Institute
3. Academic Building, Tuskegee Institute.

VISITED TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE IN AUGUST, 1910.

When the writer arrived at Tuskegee Institute the summer session was in full operation, and there were about eight or nine hundred students in attendance. There is no part of the year when there may not be found hundreds of students at Tuskegee. In fact, some of the students never return to their homes from the time they enter until after their graduation.

THE BUILDINGS LOOK LIKE A WORLD'S FAIR.

The buildings of Tuskegee form one of the most inspiring sights that a person has ever seen, and the best and most accurate comparison that the writer can make is to liken them to the grand and imposing spectacle of a World's Fair. There are about sixty brick buildings of varying sizes, and they present a spectacle that is as grand as it is inspiring. The monster building of the lot is the great dinning hall, which is capable of seating two thousand students.

THE BEST ACCOMMODATIONS FOR VISITORS.

Visitors to Tuskegee are always royally treated, and are given the best accommodations that the school affords. The proper entertainment of the thousands of visitors that flock to Tuskegee in the course of a year is the cause of no small outlay of money. There are certain quarters that are set aside for the entertainment of guests, and everything is as comfortable as money can provide.

A SCHOOL FOR WORK, NOT SHOW.

It may be supposed by some people that Tuskegee is a school for dress parade and show only, but the experience of the students who attend it is just to the contrary, for the school is a veritable beehive of industry the year round. They do real work at Tuskegee, and they prepare a student for success out in the walks of life. They really teach the various practical trades and they do so in an effective manner.

EVERYWHERE IS SYSTEM.

In spite of the fact that Tuskegee Normal Institute is the largest Negro institution of learning in the world, possibly, it is at the same time one of the best governed schools. Everywhere you look and go there is perfect system. Visit the fields and you will see perfect system in the arrangement of the furrows, methods of cultivation and in everything on the farm.

THE MASTER MINDS OF TUSKEGEE.

Tuskegee Normal Institute goes on just the same whether Dr. Washington is in Europe, Asia or Africa, for there are some master minds that are connected with the management of that great school



1. White Memorial Building, Tuskegee Institute.
2. Office Building, Tuskegee Institute.
3. The Four Emerys.
4. Thompkins Dining Hall.

that can prevent anything like chaos from making its appearance. In the person of Prof. Emmett J. Scott, Treasurer Warren Logan and others, the government of Tuskegee is assured. It is without doubt the grandest monument to the administrative genius of the Negro race that can be found in the wide world. The writer could write many pages about the wonderful things that he saw at Tuskegee, but he would exhort all that can possibly do so to lay aside all other responsibilities, go to Tuskegee and see something that is even greater than one of the Seven Wonders of the World.

EDMONDSON, ARKANSAS.

ITS LOCATION.

The little town of Edmondson, Ark., is situated on the Rock Island Railroad, about seventeen miles from Memphis, Tenn. It is located in a region of marvelous fertility, and the productive capacity of this region in a year that is most suitable for crops would rival the delta of the Nile in Africa.

ITS POPULATION.

The population of the town of Edmondson is wholly colored, and no property in the town is owned by a member of any other race. Not only is there a preponderance of black people in the town of Edmondson, but all over the county. Crittenden County is one of the black counties of the State of Arkansas, and is one of the counties in which the material progress of the race is most marked.

THE STORY OF EDMONDSON, ARK.

The story of the manner in which the colored people got in entire possession of the town of Edmondson and surrounding country is a grand tribute to the sagacity and foresight of the promoters of the Edmondson Home & Improvement Company. It is true that many colored people owned land in the neighborhood of Edmondson some time before the organization of this company, but there was considerable property that belonged to members of the white race. The enterprising leaders and officers of the Edmondson Home & Improvement Company saw in the possession of such a vast tract of land by the whites a menace to the future growth and prosperity of the race, and they began with their minds, hearts and purses to formulate plans by which the vast tracts of land that were owned by the whites might be purchased for the use of the colored people. As soon as the Edmondson Home & Improvement Company was organized its promoters began active operations to

get possession of the lands in question. The company was chartered November 10, 1902, and in the year of 1903 it had collected from the stockholders \$500, which it was able to put up as earnest money for the purchase of its first tract of land. As soon as the company had succeeded in purchasing one tract of land it would have a public sale and dispose of enough of the land to make the various payments that it had contracted to make. Thus in this manner their business shrewdness enabled them to make the purchased lands more than pay for themselves and then have numbers of acres in reserve for future use. The company purchased the J. P. Edmondson tract, the R. C. Jones tract and the D. E. Gibson tract, the three tracts amounting to practically two thousand acres of land. This purchase redeemed the community to the ownership of the colored people, and was the beginning of one of the most unique settlements of the race in the South.

EXTENT OF THE EDMONDSON SETTLEMENT.

The company itself has control of 5,407 acres of land. The people outside of the company own 12,000 acres of land. The settlement of Edmondson extends from northeast to southwest about ten or eleven miles, and has an average width of three or four miles. Thus the land of the colored people of Edmondson, Ark., covers an area of thirty square miles.

ITS BUSINESS ENTERPRISES.

The town of Edmondson has a local and long distance telephone exchange in active operation. The Edmondson Electric Light Company, with a capital of \$50,000, has already been incorporated for the purpose of establishing an electric plant. A bank will be in operation by the autumn of 1911 if nothing happens to prevent the fruition of the promoters' plans. There are ten stores, two restaurants, one hotel and several boarding houses. It has a large ginnery and a sawmill.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The religious life of the town is safeguarded by two Baptist churches and one Methodist church, and the educational interests of the race are promoted by a good town school that has three teachers and runs for nine months in each year. The postmaster of the town is a colored man. In the community of Edmondson there are over a hundred men that own from ten acres up to eighty acres of land. Some of the wealthiest men of the Edmondson community are William Wofford, W. G. Waterford, A. A. Waterford, B. T. Wofford, J. P. Wofford, P. H. Ward, Charles Ward, George Davis, A. C.

